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Heatseekers Unit firefighters share how and why they battle the blaze PAGES 10 & 11

Happy Labour Day weekend!

There will be no Metro on Monday, but be sure to look for us again on Tuesday

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A Classic weekend of fandemonium

Kurtis Tokarchuk, left, Matt Leupold and Tanita Allary, employees at Regina's Lancaster Taphouse, show off Riders green #Bomberssuck shirts. The bar is selling the shirts for the Labour Day Classic with proceeds going to the Heart and Stroke Foundation. Game preview, page 20. ALYSSA MCDONALD/METRO

Football frenzy. Fans of Riders, Bombers gather for their teams' traditional tilt in Regina

Game on, Bombers fans. Game on.

With hordes of "Friendly Manitoba" licence plates flowing into Regina this long holiday weekend, Saskatchewan Roughriders fans are once again reminded of their Blue and Gold rivals and Canadian Football League's defining Labour Day Classic game.

"The beauty of this game is it doesn't matter what the records are for either team — it's always a huge game," Ryan Whippler, director of communications for the Roughriders, said on Thursday.

"There is always a lot of excitement from both Rider and Blue Bomber fans."

It's a long-standing tradition of the Prairie rival Riders and Blue Bombers to meet up for the Labour Day weekend, and it's the first chance of the season for the two teams — and for their fans — to meet on, or around, the field.

"It brings out the best in the fan rivalry between the two teams," said Whippler. "Obviously, it's a lot more fun here in Saskatchewan when we win — (and) we've won the last few."

The Riders, in fact, haven't lost the Labour Day weekend's annual Sunday afternoon tilt to the Bombers since 2004 — eight straight victories, many of them very lopsided.

Last year, the Roughriders beat down the Bombers by a score of 52-0.

The football weekend will kick off in earnest on Saturday at 10 a.m., when Riders fans get a chance to see their home team practise at Mosaic Stadium before a one-hour autograph session.

However, Sunday is the main party with tailgating fun, a 2 p.m. kickoff and the Riderville Cabaret.

Because there are extra seats at the stadium for the Grey Cup to be played in Regina in November, Whippler noted that tickets for the game are still available.

They're hoping to sell every ticket possible.

"We're definitely hoping to pack the place," said Whippler.

"If we sell this game out — the 45,000 — it will be the second-largest regular-season game (attendance) we have ever had." ALYSSA MCDONALD/METRO

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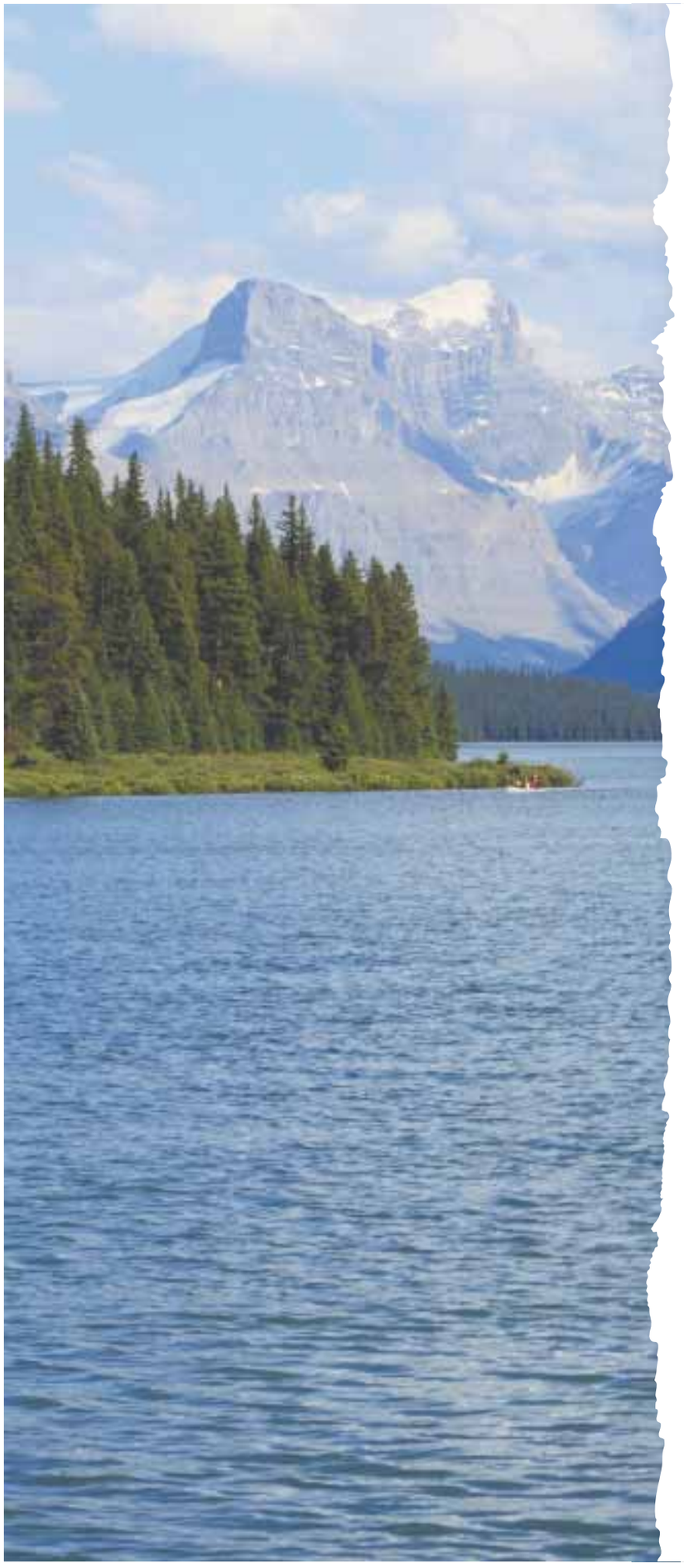

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*Source: Nanos Research Survey, August 2013

Suspect sought after kitties thrown from moving vehicle

Nine lives, indeed.
Kittens avoid serious injuries when tossed from truck on west-central Sask. highway

ALYSSA MCDONALD
alyssa.mcdonald@metronews.ca

It was a surprisingly happy ending for three kittens who were thrown from a moving truck onto a highway in west-central Saskatchewan this week.

Though covered in scrapes and with some broken teeth that had to be removed, the kittens suffered no broken bones.

"God was obviously looking out for the little buggers, as they were not in the best shape in their life — and here they are," said Nichole Deck, president of KAWS Animal Rescue in the town of Kindersley, where the kittens were eventually brought after a motorist saw the little felines on Highway 21 and took them to a veterinarian.

All three have been placed permanently at homes since the incident on Tuesday.

Reward

Deck said a foster home has put up $50 as a reward for anyone with information about the truck, and KAWS has matched that sum in hopes of finding the suspect.

The kittens, were discovered after one of them hit the windshield of a woman driving north on the highway as it was tossed from the truck. She stopped and with the help of another woman who had been driving behind her, picked up the kitten as well as another one that had landed in a ditch.

The third kitten was brought to the veterinarian by a separate driver later that day.

"The grey one has some more head trauma to him … but when I went to see them in the morning, less than 24 hours (after it happened), all they wanted to do is play and cuddle," said Deck.

One of the women has described the truck as a red pick-up. RCMP have been contacted.

Three kittens survived — and even avoided serious injuries — when they were thrown from a truck travelling at a high speed on a highway near Kindersley this week. COURTESY KAWS ANIMAL RESCUE

All daycares should be licensed: Child-care organization

The provincial government's new consideration of changes to regulate unlicensed daycares is a positive step in child care, says the Saskatchewan Early Childhood Association (SECA).

"We are very much in support of the government regulating unlicensed child-care centres," Richard Cuttell, SECA's executive director, told Metro on Thursday.

"We would like to see all the child-care centres throughout the province to be licensed."

Education Minister Russ Marchuk announced Wednesday that the government will explore possible changes that could grant the province authority to shut down unlicensed facilities.

"We will look at the legislation and if that's in the best interest of the children, we will begin that process," he told reporters.

Marchuk noted that the government will investigate every complaint it receives from parents about daycare facilities.

Cuttell said SECA has received complaints from parents about unlicensed daycares, with the most common issues being children left unattended and served unhealthy meals.

"We've heard that children are left alone for a lot of the day or they seem to be watching a lot of television during the day," he said.

"One child came and said, 'All I had was rice today. I didn't eat anything else.' That's not a healthy, nutritious meal."

He pointed out that licensed daycares have planned activities for the children they look after.

According to the Ministry of Education, there are 13,270 licensed child-care spaces in operation or development this year in Saskatchewan.

MARCO VIGLIOTTI/METRO

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Will the Riders blow out the Blue Bombers worse than last year?

In the CFL's 2012 Labour Day Classic, the Saskatchewan Roughriders demolished the anemic Winnipeg Blue Bombers 52-0. As both teams prepare for this year's edition of the much-hyped annual game — and with the Roughriders atop the league's standings and the Bombers buried at the bottom — Metro hit the streets of Saskatoon and Regina to hear predictions for Sunday's tilt from the Green and White faithful

MARCO VIGLIOTTI AND MORGAN MODJESKI
Metro

Bill Brooks, 42, Brandt employee, Regina

"I think it's probably going to be a closer game (than last year), like 38-20 for Saskatchewan. Winnipeg has nothing else to play for, except for the Labour Day game."

Rachel Pichler, 22, accountant, Saskatoon

"I don't want to be rude, but I'm going to say 38-21. I don't think they'll kill them, but I think they're going to win. I don't think the gap is going to be huge."

Kyle Dumont, 28, teacher, Regina

"We're going to beat them 56-0. It's Labour Day and we've been smashing records all season. So we might as well break last year's (52-0) record. Plus, we hate the Blue Bombers!"

Holly Thompson, 29, city employee, Saskatoon

"I think it's going to be 47-3 … just based on what's happened in the past. These past few years, we've taken them on and beaten them so I'm pretty confident."

Ian Braaten, 28, accountant, Saskatoon

"It's probably going to be 32-21 for the Riders. The Riders are on a hot streak, but I've seen them not doing so well lately, not connecting, not jiving as well. And with Winnipeg, it's the Labour Day Classic, so they've got something to prove, especially after last year."

Taylor Webb, 22, teacher, Regina

"It's going to be 32-4, because the Riders are better than the Blue Bombers!"

Pilot Butte

Two charged with impaired driving after crashing, rolling vehicles

Things went from bad to worse for two drivers involved in a collision near Pilot Butte early on Thursday, when RCMP slapped both with impaired driving charges.

At about 1:18 a.m., a black Ford Raptor and a black GMC Sierra collided on the eastbound lanes on the Trans-Canada Highway just east of Regina.

A 20-year-old man was driving the Sierra along with an 18-year-old female passenger, while the Raptor's sole occupant was a 40-year-old man.

Both vehicles rolled. The woman was transported to a Regina hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

Police said neither driver required medical attention.

The 20-year-old has been charged with impaired driving causing bodily harm, while the 40-year-old is charged with impaired operation of a motor vehicle.

Both men will appear in Provincial Court in Regina on Oct. 2 to face the charges.

METRO

83 per cent in favour

Police support staff in Moose Jaw move into potential strike position

Unionized Moose Jaw police support staff have voted overwhelmingly in favour of providing a strike mandate to their bargaining committee.

In a vote on Tuesday, 83 per cent of the 25 members of the Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 9 voted in support of a strike mandate as the union seeks to begin negotiations for a new agreement.

"Our members are understandably upset. They are almost two years without a new contract — with no bargaining dates scheduled," Ryan Nelson, CUPE Local 9's president, said in a press release.

Some of the support staff duties include answering 911 calls, typing reports, maintaining police evidence, criminal record checks and updating the Canadian Police Information Centre database, among other services.

METRO

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Lianna McDonald, executive director of the Canadian Centre for Child Protection, left, and Justice Minister Peter MacKay look on as Prime Minister Stephen Harper speaks in Toronto on Thursday. FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

PM proposes to crack down on child sex offences

Harsher penalties. Tories to introduce legislation aimed at keeping those who sexually exploit kids in prison longer

Child sex offenders, particularly those who victimize several kids, could spend longer in prison under a range of harsher penalties proposed Thursday by the prime minister.

The Conservative government plans to introduce legislation this fall aimed at cracking down on people who sexually exploit children, Stephen Harper announced.

"Sadly, there are truly evil people out there. The fact is we don't understand them and we don't particularly care to. We understand only that they must be dealt with," Harper said at an event in Toronto.

"To protect our children we must create a justice system that is more responsive to victims and especially more responsive to children and to the families of children who have been victimized by sexual predators."

A main plank of the proposed amendments would see people convicted of more than one such offence serve their sentences consecutively, rather than the current system in which sentences are served concurrently.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"Sadly, there are truly evil people out there.... we don't understand them and we don't particularly care to."
Prime Minister Stephen Harper

Harper: 'Do I seem like I smoke marijuana?'

Justin Trudeau has done it. So have premiers Kathleen Wynne and Darrell Dexter.

And Toronto Mayor Rob Ford says he's smoked pot.

Almost everyone on the political scene seems to have tried it, except for Stephen Harper.

The prime minister chuckled during a media scrum on Thursday when asked if he, too, is part of the parade of politicians who have come out recently to concede they've smoked marijuana.

He took the opportunity to hammer Trudeau and the federal Liberals on the issue, accusing them of promoting pot use among children at the expense of developing an economic policy.

"Do I seem like I smoke marijuana?" Harper asked in response to a reporter's question.

Harper said his asthma precluded smoking. "From a very young age, I have been an asthmatic and smoking anything has been out of the question since the time I was very small," he said.

A cavalcade of cannabis confessions was prompted by Justin Trudeau's admission last week that he's smoked pot in the past.
STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The cavalcade of cannabis confessions was prompted by Trudeau's admission last week that he's smoked pot in the past, at least once since becoming an MP.

Chronic politics

Ontario's premier and Toronto's mayor also recently confessed that they have smoked marijuana.

- Premier Kathleen Wynne came clean about puffing pot "very, very infrequently" and stopping 35 years ago.
- Toronto Mayor Rob Ford Ford said, "Oh yeah, I won't deny that. I smoked a lot of it."

Harper repeated his earlier criticism of Trudeau, saying the Liberal leader "displayed poor judgment" with his marijuana use.

"I look at the contrast with him promoting marijuana use for our children versus saying yesterday he will have no economic policy for several years," Harper said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canucks in space?

Almost 7,000 Canadians want to live on Mars

A project that aims to put people on Mars in 10 years has fallen short of the expected number of Martian wannabes, but there is no shortage of Canadians willing to live on the red planet.

With the Aug. 31 deadline almost here, nearly 7,000 Canucks have applied to join Mars One — a $6-billion project that plans to establish a colony on Mars by 2023. THE CANADIAN PRESS

British Columbia

Raid uncovers nearly 200 guns

Police have seized nearly 200 guns in a remote area of B.C., arresting a man who investigators allege was purchasing weapons legally and then selling them to the highest bidder.

The province's Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit announced the seizure Thursday, almost a week after raiding the home of a man in Tatla Lake, more than 300 kilometres north of Vancouver.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Winnipeg

Alligator removed from home

An alligator was found at a home in Winnipeg.
CITY OF WINNIPEG

An alligator was removed from a Winnipeg home on Wednesday.

Police and Animal Services officials received a tip about the two-foot-long reptile. Animal Services is working to find a home for the alligator at a zoo.

METRO

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Did dictator have ex-lover executed?

North Korea. High-profile singer, allegedly part of Kim dynasty's notorious 'Joy Squad,' turns up dead

KIERON MONKS
Metro World News in London

Twelve people were reportedly executed in North Korea this month on pornography charges. Among them was high-profile singer Hyon Song-wol, a rumoured former lover of the Supreme Leader Kim Jong-un, with many observers suggesting she paid the ultimate price for causing embarrassment.

Her case is typical of a culture of sleaze surrounding the leader, North Korean sources told Metro. "Kim Jong-un met and fell in love with Ms. Hyon at a 'Joy Squad' party," a former regime official from Pyongyang said. "She accompanied Kim Jong-un on his business trips to rural areas to spend romantic time alone."

The affair did not last long and the leader now has two "official" women, the insider said, despite the recent birth of a son by Ri Sol-ju, a musician with whom Kim has been able to cultivate a modern image. The source said Ri suffers from jealousy, and described a recent party in which she threw a glass at Kim.

The "Joy Squad" is a notorious institution that is part of the Kim family dynasty. "They were royal palaces full of masseurs, dancers, musicians, prostitutes and exotic foreign imports," Jasper Beckett, North Korea expert and author of Rogue Regime, told Metro.

"It's very likely that Kim Jong-un has continued like his father, who had numerous wives and mistresses. His grandfather would drive around town and pick up any woman he wanted — you could have a hierarchy of wife, official mistress, mistress," said Beckett.

The author goes on to add that previous flings have been exiled or worse.

Hyon Song-wol YOUTUBE

New Afghan troops graduate as Taliban escalate attacks

New Afghan army recruits stand in formation during a graduation ceremony at the Afghan National Army base on the outskirts of Kabul, Afghanistan. Taliban insurgents staged an evening mountain-pass ambush on an Afghan police convoy patrolling a key highway, killing 15 officers and wounding 10 in western Afghanistan's Farah province, a provincial official said Thursday, the latest in a string of escalating insurgent attacks around the country.

AHMAD JAMSHID/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canadians held in Egypt. Prosecutor a no-show

Two Canadian men being held in Egypt remained behind bars Thursday with no word on their possible release.

Lawyers representing Tarek Loubani and John Greyson, along with a senior Canadian government official, were hoping to meet with a Cairo prosecutor to plead the case for freeing the men.

But the prosecutor failed to show up, and the lawyers were forced to leave the prison where the men are being held as a night-time curfew was approaching.

That left supporters of the men disappointed but vowing to continue fighting for their release. It was unclear whether the detention order against them will be lifted.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Rape. Victim's mother rejects judge's apology

The mother of a teenage rape victim said Thursday that a judge is "just covering his butt" after he apologized for saying her 14-year-old daughter who eventually killed herself was "older than her chronological age."

Auliea Hanlon said Billings, Mont., District Judge G. Todd Baugh's apology was "irrelevant" because he has stood by the 30-day prison sentence given to rapist and former teacher Stacey Rambold. Her daughter, Cherice Moralez, killed herself before Rambold's case came to trial.

A rally Thursday packed the courthouse lawn with hundreds of people, many carrying signs such as "Justice for Cherice" and "14 is 14."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Colombia

Youths clash with police in support of farmers

Groups of masked youths backing a 10-day protest by small farmers clashed with tear gas-firing riot police in the Colombian capital Thursday as President Juan Manuel Santos acknowledged "a storm" is battering Colombia's agricultural sector.

The violence in Bogota followed peaceful marches by about 28,000 university students and others in support of the farmers.

Six police officers and 10 civilians were reported injured, and authorities said four people had been arrested.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Liberia

Education system under fire after 25,000 fail exams

After completing high school in June, 20-year-old Lawrence Bondo spent six weeks working with a private tutor to prepare for the University of Liberia's entrance exam.

Bondo, though, learned this month that he had failed. So had every one of the nearly 25,000 other applicants this year.

Some of the applicants are accusing the university of fraud, and are organizing a march Friday to demand a refund of their exam fees — nearly $30 per student.

In previous years, candidates had been graded on a curve. Under the new system put in place this year, students were required to earn scores of 50 per cent in math and 70 per cent in English in order to pass. Around 300 met the math requirement, but no students met the requirements in English, said S. Momolu Getaweh, the university's public relations chief.

Officials declined to provide copies of the test, which was a multiple-choice exam.

The incident has cast a spotlight on the education sector in this West African nation still recovering from a brutal 14-year civil war that ended in 2003.

After the dismal results were in, Liberia President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf laid out a plan Wednesday to relax admission standards to enrol 1,626 undergraduate students.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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SHOPPERS DRUG MART

Britain opts out of involvement in military action against Syria

Stunning vote. With Britain out, following a vote by Parliament, the U.S. may still go it alone

An Israeli soldier directs a tank at the border between the Golan Heights and Syria. BERNAT ARMANGUE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Barack Obama on Thursday prepared for the possibility of launching unilateral American military action against Syria within days as Britain opted out in a stunning vote by Parliament.

Facing skepticism at home, too, the administration shared intelligence with lawmakers aimed at convincing them the Syrian government used chemical weapons against its people and must be punished.

Despite roadblocks in forming an international coalition, Obama appeared undeterred and advisers said he would be willing to retaliate against Syria on his own.

"The president of the United States is elected with the duty to protect the national security interests in the United States of America," White House spokesman Josh Earnest said.

Even before the vote in London, the U.S. was preparing to act without formal authorization from the UN. Prime Minister David Cameron argued a military strike would be legal, but he faced deep pressure from lawmakers. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On military intervention ...

Canada is a 'reluctant convert': PM

Stephen Harper
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada has no plans for a military intervention in Syria but supports its allies who are contemplating forceful action against that country's regime, Prime Minister Stephen Harper said Thursday.

Harper admitted that lack of international action in light of the apparent use of chemical weapons would set an "extremely dangerous precedent," but added his government has been reluctant on the idea of a western strike.

"Our government has been a very reluctant convert to the idea that there needs to be some western military action regarding the Syrian situation," he said Thursday in Toronto.

"At the present time the government of Canada has no plans, we have no plans of our own to have a Canadian military mission."

Harper said the conflict in Syria is "sectarian in nature" and doesn't appear to have any "ideal or obvious outcomes" for a solution.

He added that Canada stands behind other powers weighing the possibility of a mission. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Egypt. Brotherhood calls for mass protests, sit-ins Friday; security increased

The Muslim Brotherhood ramped up its calls Thursday for nationwide protests against Egypt's military-backed government, while an Islamist ally of the ousted president spoke of an attempt to broker a deal before the "ship of the nation sinks."

The Brotherhood's call for mass protests and sit-ins Friday will test how much the fierce security crackdown has crippled the group and if they can still mobilize their base in the face of widespread public anger against them.

Egypt's security forces have increased their presence in the streets ahead of the planned demonstrations and accused the Islamist group on Thursday of using rallies to create chaos. Authorities continued to hunt down wanted leaders. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Strikes will pose 'serious threat' to the Middle East: Lebanese minister

International punitive strikes against Syrian President Bashar Assad's regime without a United Nations mandate will pose a "serious threat" to the security and stability across the Middle East, Lebanon's foreign minister said Thursday.

In an interview, Adnan Mansour warned that a Western military strike would escalate tensions in Lebanon and may dramatically increase the number of Syrian refugees.

Lebanon is a tiny country that shares a porous border with Syria, and has seen cross-border shelling, sectarian clashes and car bombings in recent months related to the civil war raging next door.

There are concerns that U.S. military action in Syria may trigger another wave of refugees fleeing across the border into Lebanon — the country of 4.5 million is already host to nearly 1 million Syrian refugees — and trigger violence across the country.

"A limited or extended military strike by one or more countries against Syria is a serious threat to the security and stability of the region," said Mansour, who is seen as sympathetic to the Assad regime.

Peacekeepers patrol the Lebanese-Israeli border Thursday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"Any military action against any country, particularly an Arab state, which is not rooted in international legitimacy and the Security Council, is a direct aggression against this state,'' he added.

Lebanon is sharply divided between supporters and opponents of Assad's regime and is split along sectarian lines. Two powerful car bombings in predominantly Shiite areas controlled by the pro-Assad militant group Hezbollah, followed by deadly car bombings earlier this month in the northern city of Tripoli, a Sunni stronghold, have fuelled sectarian tensions in the country, pushing the country to the brink of war itself.

Lebanon speaks out

Adnan Mansour said there can be no alternative to end Syria's 2 1/2 year civil war other than a political solution, adding that a military strike will "complicate" matters.

There are also fears that a U.S. strike against Assad would trigger Hezbollah retaliation against U.S. ally Israel, potentially drawing the Jewish State into a wider conflict.

He warned that Lebanon, in particular, would be affected.

"Such an operation will have negative repercussions on Lebanon's security and stability, as well as from the social and humanitarian perspective," he added.

Mansour rejected accusations that the Syrian regime was behind the Aug. 21 purported chemical weapons attack near Damascus, which killed hundreds, saying there had to be an investigation before accusations are levelled. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Actor and activist George Takei will take Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra audiences through the great orchestral works of sci-fi Sept. 27 to 29.

COURTESY WINNIPEG SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Oh my! Takei takes on the symphony orchestra

Winnipeg. Star Trek actor, however, won't be subjecting audience to his musical skills

ELISHA DACEY
Metro in Winnipeg

For those more familiar with his role as Hikaru Sulu on Star Trek, finding out George Takei is performing with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra might make one's pointy Vulcan ears perk up.

But the 76-year-old actor, who has Canadian cousins in Ontario and B.C., has actually narrated symphony concerts for the past 15 years.

"I talk. I don't sing, I don't play an instrument," laughed Takei. "I do sing … but I am not a symphonic singer."

Takei's musicianship extends much further. Last year, the actor performed in Allegiance, a dramatic musical about the internment of Japanese-Americans in the 1940s after the bombing of Pearl Harbour during the Second World War.

It opened to rave critical reviews and had to extend its run in San Diego. It opens on Broadway next year, and Takei said they hope to put together a touring show, including shows in Canada.

"I'm always surprised by people who seem to be otherwise well-informed and educated to tell me, 'I had no idea something like (the internment camps) happened (in the U.S. and Canada.) It's a little-known part of our history."

Free Birds

Check out George Takei in the animated movie Free Birds in November as the voice of a time machine.

Growing up Takei

Internment camp forged his activism

George Takei, who spent three years in a Second World War internment camp until he was eight years old, said getting people to learn about the internment is the reason he signed up for social media.

Thanks to his wry humour, fondness for puns and occasional scorching social-justice commentary, his popularity on Twitter and Facebook exploded.

"I discovered there's a great overlap between the LGBT community and the sci-fi geeks and nerds community," said Takei.

An outspoken activist for human rights, especially for the LGBT community, Takei said he's in the midst of writing his second autobiography.

"The first book was called To The Stars, and that came out in 1994.… I've lived a lot of material," said Takei, who acknowledged he was gay and got married to his husband, Brad, since then. "The next book is called Down To Earth."

Metro spoke to Takei on Wednesday, which was the 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King's I Have A Dream speech. Takei said the world has made enormous strides, but still has a way to go.

"It's important to emphasize the steps we have made," said Takei, "but we do have an enormous amount to go to live up to Dr. Martin Luther King's dream."

ELISHA DACEY/METRO IN WINNIPEG

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Good Luck Riders!!

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Safety first

Wildfire crews are trained to follow the LACES protocol.

- **L for lookouts.** One crew member, communicating with a supervisor, watches the fire from an advantageous position and constantly keeps an eye out for sudden changes that could endanger firefighters on the ground.
- **A for anchor points.** A location protected from fire spread from which to start building a fire break or line. Prevents a fire from spreading beyond that point.
- **C for communications.** Teams must keep in constant touch so that everyone can concentrate on their job and identify hazards before it's too late.
- **E for escape routes.** Crews must predetermine routes that can be used to get to safety in case a fire becomes too dangerous.
- **S for safety zones.** Crews must set up open zones within the site that provide refuge.

Source: Canadian Forest Service

Tools to tame wildfires

1 Chainsaw. Clearing hazards

Used for clearing fuel from sites and clearing hazards from a forest fire.

2 Hoses & pumps. Prevention

After a water source is found, crews wet areas to prevent the spread of fire and then move in on the fire.

3 Shovel. Firebreaks

Used for constructing firebreaks, digging hose lines, trenches and barriers.

4 Pulaski. The go-to tool

Used to construct firebreaks. It can be used as an axe for cutting and also to dig soil.

5 Drip torches. Controlled burn

Used to start small, controlled fires to burn up any fuel before a wildfire gets to that area.

PHOTOS: 1-4: JENNIFER GAUTHIER/FOR METRO; 5: COURTESY B.C. WILDFIRE MANAGEMENT BRANCH; TEXT: MATT KIELTYKA/METRO IN VANCOUVER

Pemberton Fire Base

- Two 20-man expanded attack crews
- Four three-person initial attack crews
- Three helicopters
- Five rappel crews and specialized rappel helicopter
- Additional response officers and support staff

Crews load up one of the helicopters at the Pemberton Fire Attack Base so it's equipped to quickly head out to a wildfire. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/FOR METRO

Heatseekers. Well-trained wildfire crews ready to attack forests smouldering for a fight

MATT KIELTYKA
Metro in Vancouver

Red flash after red flash lit up a real-time map of British Columbia as reports came in.

A record dry spell in July meant that on Aug. 2 most of the province was under an "extreme" wildfire-danger rating.

People in the outdoors weren't allowed any open flame or campfires and already frowned-upon behaviour — such as casually flicking a cigarette — was now criminal.

But on this day, Mother Nature was the one doing the damage. A hundred new wildfires were recorded as the first storm system in more than a month swept through southern B.C., its flashes of lightning igniting the parched, tinder-dry forests overnight.

The Heatseekers Unit of Pemberton's Fire Attack Base — located just north of Whistler in the province's Coastal Fire Centre — had preloaded one of its three helicopters stationed at the base.

Armed with axes, shovels, chainsaws and hoses, the 20-man unit was ready to rush into nature's inferno at a moment's notice.

Just not at this particular moment.

While crews were attacking fires throughout the province, the remnants of the previous night's storm made it impossible for Pemberton units to get clearance to fly in the morning, with the imposing Mount Currie next to the airfield completely obscured by the cloud cover.

"There's a lot of anticipation in fire season. Sometimes the hardest part is not being on fires," says Heatseekers unit supervisor Joe Lax, 34, whose flat-brimmed baseball cap and youthful appearance mask years of extensive wildfire experience.

It's only the hardest part if you don't think too much about the long days covered in dirt while working furiously with heavy equipment to contain a hellish blaze as it spreads from one treetop to another overhead. It's not a job for the easily intimidated, or for those afraid to get dirt under their fingernails (and just about everywhere else).

"There's a bit of glory to it, but most times it's just getting dirty. It's not easy on the body," says Lax. "We are in there for the long haul, start to finish.

"Sometimes we go in there and establish hose lays; we do a lot of burnoff with drip torches to mitigate the fuel between us and the fire. We do line-locate for heavy machinery to build guard around bigger fires and go right down to mop-up, where we use pulaskis and dig up smoldering debris on the ground and put it out."

Given the job description, it's no wonder the majority of the red shirts toiling away at Pemberton Fire Attack Base seem to be extremely fit men and women in their 20s and 30s.

At homebase, they're all

SOME LIKE IT HOT

A helicopter starts a controlled burn behind an evacuated home in an attempt to reduce the amount of fuel for a wildfire burning on Mount McLean in Lillooet, B.C., in this 2009 photo. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

energy, jokes and a dash of bravado — the latter being the first to disappear when they arrive on the doorstep of a raging wildfire.

It's all about safety (first and foremost), structure and professionalism.

"There's a huge sense of responsibility," says Lax. "You're working within the public trust. There's always excitement when you fly in to a fire for the first time, but your headspace has to be all about having a plan and working together. For most guys, they just want to get out there and go to work. Fear doesn't enter into it."

Listening to Heatseekers describe running headfirst into a wildfire is less Hollywood and more tax audit: technical, serious and, surprisingly, a bit dull.

A wildfire may seem like pure chaos to the untrained eye, but every crew member who attacks one has internalized a highly detailed gameplan before setting out on a call.

They're in constant communication and each firefighter knows the nature of the fire, the weather and wind conditions, what the topography is and where exits are if things ever get unmanageable.

Wildfire co-ordination officers Toni Large and Rob Dombrowsky — the elder statesmen on base — make sure of it.

The two run the daily briefings and set up the plans for crews heading into the wild.

As the ones responsible for their crew's safety, they were hit as hard as anyone when news broke that 19 members of the Granite Mountain Hotshots in Arizona (the American equivalent of the Heatseekers) died after being entrapped by a wildfire June 30.

"We have 20-person crews. We know every one of these people," says Dombrowsky. "We lunch with them, we talk, we have interpersonal relationships with all of them. To have something like that happen … our hearts go out to all of them. It's a terrible thing."

The disaster sparked a B.C.-wide safety review.

"We had a safety meeting with our supervisors to discuss LACES (see sidebar) and fatigue management," says Large. "It was an opportunity for us to remind ourselves of the safety program. Responder safety is first. We have procedures in place for a reason, to avoid that kind of entrapment."

"They have to come home at the end of the day," adds Dombrowsky.

Think you've got what it takes to go to blazes?

Have you got enough fire in your belly to become a wildland firefighter?

You're going to need a lot more than that.

It's one of the toughest, meanest, most dangerous jobs in the country, so the people who take it on have to be the very best.

The test for qualifying as a wildland firefighter has the snappy title of the Canadian Physical Performance Exchange Standard. It's shortened to the code WFX-FIT and that translates into one word: sweat.

"It's no picnic" is the very direct warning in the Ministry of Natural Resources guide to qualifying. One training company's guide sums it up: "The job is the test and the test is the job." It's all based on the real world. And the real world is tough.

On the web

Go to metronews.ca for more on Canada's extreme firefighters:

- **Photos.** See a gallery of the Pemberton Fire Attack Base crew at work
- **Read.** Pine beetle threat extends east

WFX-FIT

- **Carry pump on back:** 160 metres including ramp eight times
- **Hand-carry pump:** 80 metres
- **Lift and carry hose pack on back:** 1 kilometre, including ramp 50 times
- **Charged hose advance:** 80 metres

Here's the challenge:

After passing a stringent medical exam in order to qualify to try out, candidates take on a 40-metre circuit at one of six training centres in Northern Ontario.

First they do it with a 28.5-kg pump on their back — four times around the 40 metres, including a steep ramp each time. Then they repeat it twice with the pump in their arms. Then they grab a 25-kg pack with hoses and carry it for a kilometre. Yes, a kilometre, plus the ramp every 20 metres. That means 50 hills to conquer.

Then it gets really tough.

The would-be firefighter drags an 80-kg sled for two 40-metre laps, to simulate dragging a hose towards a fire.

It takes mettle to do this: A parattack firefighter from the Prince George Fire Centre comes in for a landing after leaping from a specialized DC-3 aircraft. COURTESY B.C. WILDFIRE MANAGEMENT BRANCH

Think you could do it?

Well, there's a catch: You only have 17 minutes and 15 seconds to do it or, to meet the standard for transfers between provinces, 14 minutes and 30 seconds. Ouch.

Still standing?

We'd like to shake your hand.

MIKE DONACHIE/METRO IN LONDON, ONT.

WHERE THE WILDFIRE FIGHTERS ARE

Wildland firefighters from every province are often dispatched to other provinces, and other countries, that need help. Here's where some crews are based

Specialty crews

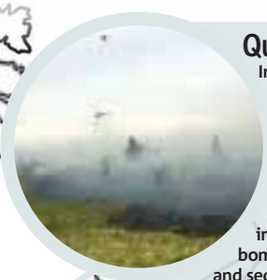
Both British Columbia and Alberta have specialty "Rap-attack" or "Helitack" crews, who rope rappel into fires. They can access smaller fires and attack them before they grow and help fight larger fires by removing timber to create a helicopter landing location, according to the B.C. government.

COURTESY B.C. GOVERNMENT

Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre

The Winnipeg-based Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre co-ordinates the sharing of firefighting services for all of the provinces, territories and the federal fire management agencies, the United States and other countries. ELISHA DACEY/METRO

Quebec



In July, crews from as far as B.C., Nova Scotia and the U.S. came to help fight the fires that raged in the province's north. Quebec also has its own wildland firefighting resources — water bombers for initial attack and secondary attack crews that can be brought in by helicopter.

TWITTER: @NBFORESTFIRES

Ontario fire rangers

Ontario's fire rangers have been fighting fires for almost 130 years. The province deploys 200 four-person fire ranger crews at 38 fire headquarters and attack bases across the province. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Maritimes

Nova Scotia's Wildfire Management Group hires seasonal firefighters who are also part of the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre and go to other jurisdictions to fight fires. In July, crews from Nova Scotia and New Brunswick were sent to Quebec to help. TWITTER: @NBFORESTFIRES

TEXT: JESSICA SMITH/METRO

Deadly blazes

1825: Miramichi Fire

The largest and deadliest fire in Canadian history raged across an estimated three million acres of New Brunswick and Maine. At least 160 people were killed.

1871: The Great Peshtigo Fire

The Great Peshtigo Fire grew out of unattended logging camp fires, eventually destroying 3.8 million acres in Wisconsin and Michigan. At least 1,500 people died.

The Great Fire of 1910

The blaze burned across three million acres in Washington, Idaho and Montana. Of the 87 people killed, most were firefighters.

2009: The Black Saturday Fire

From February to March 2009, numerous bush fires killed 173 people as they swept across 1.1 million acres of Australia's Victoria state.

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iTunes FESTIVAL

Lady Gaga
September 1

Paramore
September 4

Justin Timberlake
September 29

Katy Perry
September 30

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News worth sharing.

The iTunes Festival

The iTunes Festival is one of the highlights of the concert season -- and Metro can take you there. If going to jolly old London to party as music superstars like Justin Timberlake, Lady Gaga, Katy Perry and Queens of the Stone Age shake the stage is your idea of heaven, Metro can make that dream come true.

Thirty days of wicked fun kickoff on Sept. 1, with more than 60 artists playing live at the renowned Roundhouse in London. The Roundhouse opened in 1846 with very different beginnings -- a steam engine repair centre. Over the years, it took different paths; eventually becoming what is now a legendary performance hall hosting the likes of Pink Floyd, Led Zeppelin and Jimi Hendrix.

Since the iTunes Festival launched in 2007, it has carried on the tradition of stellar performances, bringing in mega stars like Adele, Coldplay and the Foo Fighters. Aside from the artists already mentioned, this year's lineup runs the gamut from Sir Elton John to Kings of Leon, the Lumineers to Chic featuring Nile Rodgers – something for all musical passions.

Experience it Live with the World

Watch performances in real-time with the rest of the world by streaming them in HD quality every day in September at 4 p.m. ET/1 p.m. PT. You can watch on your computer, download the official iTunes Festival app to watch on your iPhone, iPad or iPod touch -- or watch on the big screen through Apple TV. For a limited time after the gig, performances will be available on iTunes on-demand.

Experience the festival with people around the world by following #iTunesFestival on Twitter.

The only way to get access to the event is to win tickets. Metro has them!
Check out the back page for details on how to enter for a chance to win. Throughout the month, Metro will have gig reviews and reminders on performances. Keep reading for the latest news.

The Lineup

Performances air at 4 p.m. ET/1 p.m. PT on iTunes or the official app. Miss the show? No worries, watch it on demand for a limited time after.

SEPT 1 | Lady Gaga

SEPT 2 | Sigur Rós [OPENER: POLIÇA]

SEPT 3 | The Lumineers [OPENER: Phox]

SEPT 4 | Paramore [OPENER: Fenech-Soler]

SEPT 5 | Rizzle Kicks [OPENER: Eliza Doolittle]

SEPT 6 | Queens of the Stone Age [OPENER: Palma Violets]

SEPT 7 | Phoenix [OPENER: Little Green Cars]

SEPT 8 | Bastille [OPENER: The 1975]

SEPT 9 | Arctic Monkeys [OPENER: Drenge]

SEPT 10 | Jake Bugg [OPENER: Valerie June]

SEPT 11 | Kings of Leon [OPENER: Jimmy Eat World]

SEPT 12 | Elton John [OPENER: Tom Odell]

SEPT 13 | Avicii [OPENER: Henrik B]

SEPT 14 | Chic Featuring Nile Rodgers [OPENER: Janelle Monáe]

SEPT 15 | Vampire Weekend [OPENER: The Olms]

SEPT 16 | Jack Johnson [OPENER: Bahamas]

SEPT 17 | Ludovico Einaudi [OPENER: Agnes Obel]

SEPT 18 | Thirty Seconds To Mars [OPENER: The Family Rain]

SEPT 19 | Kendrick Lamar [OPENER: Schoolboy Q]

SEPT 20 | Primal Scream [OPENER: Skinny Girl Diet]

SEPT 21 | HAIM [OPENER: Gabrielle Aplin. Bipolar Sunshine. Dan Croll]

SEPT 22 | Ellie Goulding [OPENER: Laura Welsh]

SEPT 23 | Jessie J [OPENER: Lawson]

SEPT 24 | Robin Thicke [OPENER: Aloe Blacc]

SEPT 25 | Pixies [OPENER: NO CEREMONY///]

SEPT 26 | Tinie Tempah [OPENER: Naughty Boy]

SEPT 27 | Dizzee Rascal

SEPT 28 | John Legend

SEPT 29 | Justin Timberlake [OPENER: Mikky Ekko]

SEPT 30 | Katy Perry [OPENER: Iggy Azalea. Icona Pop]

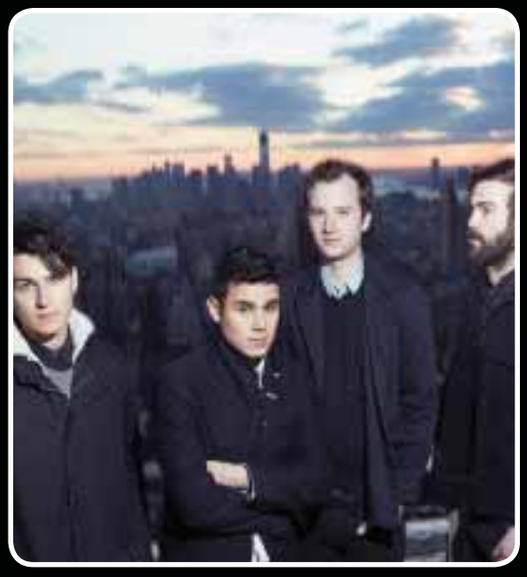
Mother monster to her brood of evangelical fans, Lady Gaga is one of the most dramatic entertainers to hit the world stage in recent years. Starting with a showcase at New York's The Cutting Room in 2006, Gaga has gone on to be an international sensation thanks to albums like The Fame Monster and Born this Way, and her recently released song Applause.

Sealing its longevity with the 2008 hit Use Somebody, King of Leon's has expanded its southern rock sound over the years to become a critical and commercial success. The jewel in Leon's award-winning crown is the collaboration of brothers Nathan, Jared and Caleb Followill with their cousin Matthew. The band's sixth studio album, Mechanical Bull, is slated for release this September.

This sexy R&B crooner known for his controversial "Blurred Lines" is no stranger to the bright lights of Hollywood, having grown up in the spotlight as the son of actor Alan Thicke. Fast forward a few years and the American Music Award nominee is a star in his own right now.

Not even a Suit & Tie can cramp the cred of Justin Timberlake. JT went from clean-cut Disney star to successfully stepping in sync as a boy bander before bringing SexyBack as a solo artist. Add a scene-stealing movie career to the mix and you have the making of a long and lucrative career.

The only artist to spend 69 consecutive weeks in the top ten of Billboards' Hot 100, Katy Perry is a musical force to behold. From the irreverent I Kissed a Girl to the self-empowering Firework, she has earned her placed as one today's most beloved and sought-after performers, with fans eagerly awaiting her new album, Prism.



Vampire Weekend
September 15

Thirty Seconds to Mars
September 18

Robin Thicke
September 24

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Netflix turns viewers into guinea pigs

HIPPOs out, guineas in. Video-streaming service tests its ideas on viewers, whether they realize it or not

Want to be a guinea pig for Netflix, get early access to new features and help shape how the video streaming service grows and evolves?

If you're a relatively new subscriber, you may already be a beta tester. Or perhaps you used to be.

At any given time Netflix is conducting hundreds of tests across its website and other platforms. Some are based on bold new ideas and are immediately obvious to its test subjects, while others are being run invisibly beneath the user interface.

Users who have been with Netflix since the company launched in Canada in September 2010 aren't likely to be in on the testing, but newer members almost certainly are, whether they realize it or not, said Netflix's chief product officer Neil Hunt.

"One of our limited resources is users to try out new ideas, so I would say it's the unusual individual who doesn't end up in some kind of test at some point," said Hunt.

"Most testing is done with brand new users who don't have learned behaviours to unlearn. That gives us the cleanest read, and so the typical new user coming in will end up in half a dozen or a dozen different test experiences, most of which will be very trivial and minor and invisible."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Stats vs. top brass

The management at the video streaming service is known for thinking outside the (TV) box.

- Netflix relies on the statistics generated by user tests to inform its decisions, chief product officer Neil Hunt said, rather than following the so-called "HIPPO" philosophy.
- That acronym stands for "highest paid person's opinion" and refers to an organization's preference to make top-down decisions.

Twitter. Timberlake lures fans to New Jersey

Hundreds of people flooded the streets outside a New Jersey nightclub after Justin Timberlake took to social media about filming a commercial.

The singer tweeted on Wednesday: "Join me & @Target tonight for just one song. Let's 'Take Back the Night.' First 150 get in. See you there!"

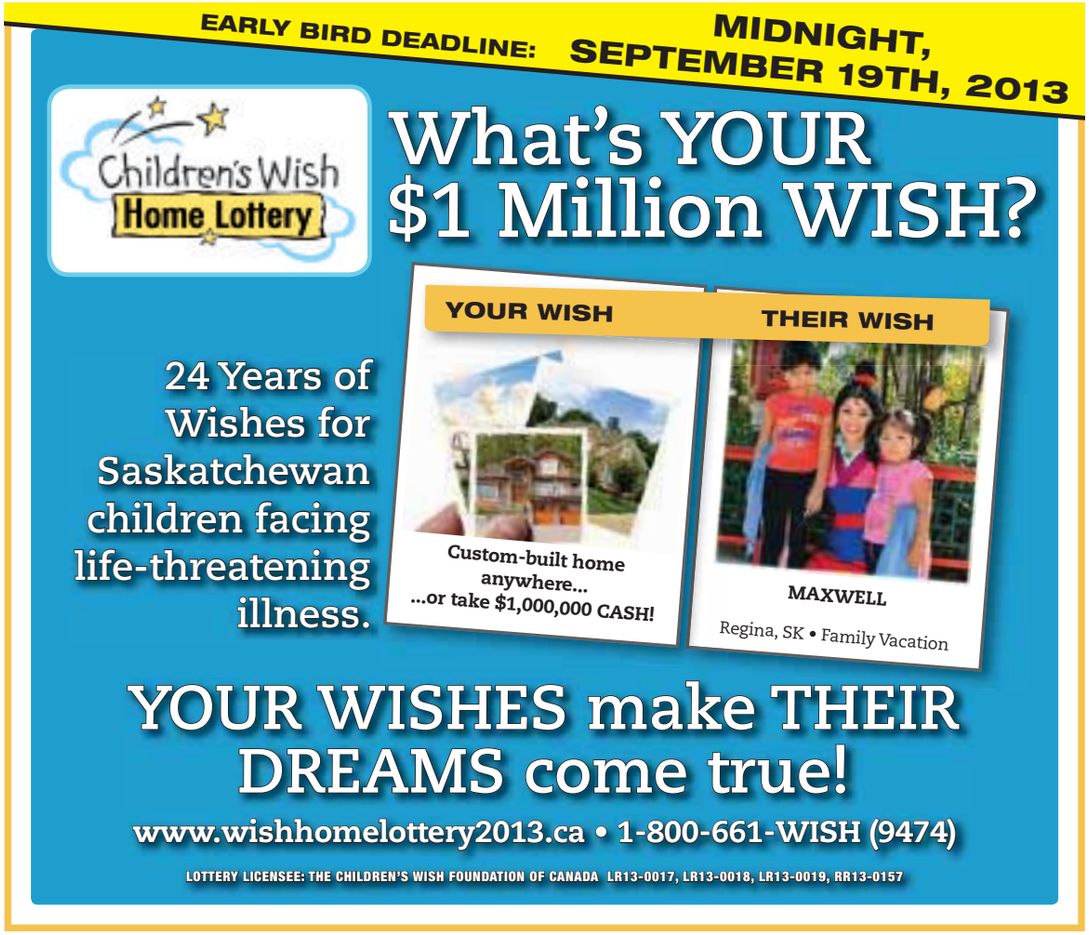
Fans jammed the street outside Maxwell's in Hoboken, and police used loudspeakers to control the crowd.

The Jersey Journal reports that Timberlake's wife, actress Jessica Biel, was spotted near his trailer.

The indie-rock club closed its doors after a 35-year run in July.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Justin Timberlake
INVISION/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS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Protest. Can I get a raise with that?

Fast-food workers protested Thursday in U.S. cities including New York, Chicago and Detroit, with organizers expecting the biggest national walkouts yet in a demand for higher wages.

The nationwide day of demonstrations came after similar actions organized by unions and community groups over the past several months. Workers are calling for the right to unionize without interference from employers and for pay of $15 an hour. That's more than double the federal minimum wage of $7.25 an hour, or $15,000 a year for full-time employees.

Thursday's walkouts and protests reached about 60 cities, organizers said. But the turnout varied significantly. Some restaurants were temporarily unable to do business while others operated normally.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Church's Chicken employee Tina McCory protests low wages outside the fast food restaurant Thursday in Atlanta. JOHN AMIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Amid lawsuits, pressure

Tylenol to carry red labels warning of possible fatal risks

Bottles of Tylenol sold in the U.S. will soon bear red warnings alerting users to the potentially fatal risks of taking too much of the popular pain reliever. The step, disclosed by the maker of Tylenol, comes amid lawsuits and pressure from the federal government.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Service fee now, tax later

Former owner of The Brick loses appeal in tax case

The former owner of a Canadian furniture retail giant has lost its appeal of a B.C. government order to pay more than $200,000 in penalties associated with The Brick's so-called buy now, pay later program.

The program allows customers to defer the payment of purchases for up to 18 months by signing up for a store card. While customers do not have to pay interest on their purchases, they were charged a service fee to arrange card financing.

A Finance Ministry audit in 2000 found that Quinco Financial, then owner of The Brick, had failed to collect nearly $170,000 in provincial taxes on the service fees, between March 1, 1996 and Oct. 21, 2000. It imposed a penalty of $209,000 which was equivalent to the unpaid taxes plus interest owed.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR 94.96¢ US (-0.41¢)

TSX 12,704.73 (+97.51)

OIL $108.80 US (-$1.30)

GOLD $1,412.90 US (-$5.90)

Natural gas: $3.62 (+3.6)
Dow Jones: 14,840.95 (+ 16.44)

CONTRARY TO CONTRACEPTION

THE METRO LIST

Mike Benhaim
metronews.ca

1 **Ain't no party like a Québécois Parti.** PQ Leader Pauline Marois says the "Charter of Quebec Values," will reflect "universal" as well as Quebec values and will unify the people. Banning religious headgear in the workplace is just one small step in a brilliant plan to deflecting all existing racial tension toward the greater common threat: Non-francophones.

2 **On the prowl.** Victoria police issued an alert to citizens after reports of a large cougar on the loose. Experts warn the animal could be isolated and irritable. Residents say that it's rare to find a cougar in these parts. You usually have to go to one of those bars out in the suburbs.

3 **Surprise!** Health Canada issued a recall this week for Freya-28, an oral contraceptive being used by thousands of Canadian women, when it was discovered that some packages contained placebos in place of the active pills. Now, there's nothing funny about this except that faulty drugs usually result in the loss of life, whereas these side effects could last a whole lot longer.

4 **Designated driver.** Breaking news on self-driving cars reveal that Google is producing a fleet of "robo-taxis." Terrific news for lovers who want some privacy, and for those who are really drunk, the car is equipped with robotics. Upon reaching your destination, the car will slap you awake, eject you from the seat and dispense harsh verbal judgments.

5 **NASA in a nutshell.** Ice in the Arctic continues to melt while seas in the Middle East shrink. Ideas of redistributing water come up but are far too complex, especially with NASA resources being spent on a study that will allow astronauts to hibernate during their nine-month trip to Mars. I am not making any of this up.

6 **Bait.** Conservationist and shark defender Lesley Rochat swam among the big fish wearing just a bikini. Rochat said she wanted to be as vulnerable as possible, and boasts that she has not been bitten yet. Viral photos of the attractive Rochat have led me to my latest theory: Sharks are gay. She better hope I'm right.

7 **Talk to the hand.** Researchers at the University of Washington have successfully connected two human brains over the Internet. One scientist sent a brain signal to a colleague at a separate location, controlling his hand movement. This is a magnificent scientific breakthrough, but I just know it will eventually become some household toy for boys with which to terrorize their younger siblings.

8 **Blurred lines.** In an attempt to shed her Hannah Montana persona, Miley Cyrus reinvented herself for the VMAs last Sunday. Now, call me old-fashioned, but as much as the classic, teenie-bikini/foam-finger combo screams artistic growth, if I were her, I might have just gone with music lessons.

9 **This week in music.** In 1975, KC and the Sunshine Band scored their first U.S. No. 1 hit with a song that introduced the phrase, "Do a little dance, make a little love, get down tonight." 38 years later, we still get to see grandma act out the lyrics at every wedding and bar mitzvah. Only now, she may actually be dating KC.

Follow The Metro List on Twitter @TheMetroList

ZOOM

What do you have to send to Saturn?

Smile! A thousand selfies compiled

NASA's Cassini spacecraft has been mapping the Solar System from Saturn, and this was the result when they asked civilians to take part.

Thousands participated in the Wave at Saturn event on July 19, taking selfies of their tributes to the mission. This collage combines the photos they sent as a tribute to the spacecraft's image of Earth. METRO

A close-up of the compilation.

COURTESY NASA

Down to Earth

1,400

The total number of pictures used in the mosaic. NASA reported that contributions arrived from more than 40 countries and 30 U.S. states.

Clickbait

ANDREW FIFIELD
andrew.fifield@metronews.ca

Sure, Twitter can be a fine source of news and highly-stylized photos from around the world. But more importantly, it's a rich source of jokes from shockingly sharp minds. Here's three frequently strange and dependably funny accounts.

@abusitron:
Your number one source for jokes about using deer to engineer a McDonald's burger heist or musically-inclined druids using Stonehenge as a stage for cover versions of '90s dance anthems. Bonus points for being a Canadian.

@tastefactory:
Come for the AVI that resembles a photo commemorating a kitten's first day at school, stay for the excellent puns on sepia-toned cultural references.

@crushingbort:
Aside from being hilarious, RTs from this account are a big reason why my following number is too damn high. Sample tweet: "I wonder how many of the people I follow are accounts that have been taken over by funnier muggers."

Twitter

@metropicks asked: The N.S. premier is latest politician to admit to smoking pot. Do you care if elected officials toke?

@Canucklehead_ca: I'm more suspicious of those who claimed they didn't. Statistics don't lie, politicians do. Oh, and pass the chips dude.

@MiaAdinaVida: Everyone does it- don't get why it's such a big deal!- it's 2013, people shouldn't be surprised anymore!

@Alannafawn84: I rather them smoke weed it will only make them want to eat and not steal and maybe have better ideas.

@sleuth_4_truths: I care that they are honest. Maybe if all NS politicians had a pot party this election stuff (#nspoli) would be more civil.

@veryboeing: When it's illegal yes. When it's legal, no. But they will say anything to get your vote.

@WelderAnge: well I'm thinking drug use may explain something... They don't call it dope cause it makes ya smart.

Follow @metropicks and take part in our daily poll.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU: Send us your comments: reginaletters@metronews.ca

metro
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Synopsis

Former race-car driver Brent Magna (Ethan Hawke) comes home to find his apartment trashed and his wife gone. As he tries to wrap his head around what happened, a cellphone rings. A mysterious voice directs him to a car park where he is to steal a souped-up Shelby Super Snake car and perform a number of duties or his wife will be killed. Complicating matters is The Kid (Selena Gomez), a rich kid who comes along for the ride.

- Richard: ●○○○○
- Mark: ●●○○○

Ethan Hawke may regret making this movie, but it will be the woeful acting of Selena Gomez that Getaway will be remembered for. CONTRIBUTED

Make quick Getaway from this cinematic car crash

Reel Guys

RICHARD CROUSE AND MARK BRESLIN

Abysmal auto movie. In this dire high-speed kidnapping tale Hawke tries his best but he is weighed down by the 'performance' of teen songstress Gomez

Richard: Mark, the movie starts promisingly with a five-minute sequence. It effectively sets up the story in true cinematic fashion — show me, don't tell me — but then quickly becomes what we call in the film criticism business a S.D.M. (Silly Damn Movie). OK, I made that last part up, but I couldn't really think of any other category to place this movie under. Maybe E.S.D.M. (Extremely Silly Damn Movie). What do you think? Is it just a mindless popcorn movie or is it just mindless?

Mark: Richard, did you miss the trenchant political allegory about late-period capitalism? Well, me too. But if it's car crashes you're after, look no further. I liked the set-up of this movie, enough so that I was interested in it to the halfway mark. And then, there were... more car crashes. And because the movie takes place in Bulgaria, the cars that were crashed were kind of small and cheap. To get me excited about car crashes, I need to see some totalled Beemers and Mercs in flames. Quantity is not quality. Anyway, the real car crash here is the unbelievable relationship between Ethan Hawke and Selena Gomez.

RC: Hawke does the job, I doubt he'll ever think about this movie again once the cheque clears. But Gomez? Let's just say it's quite possible she is even more annoying as an actress than she is as a singer. Her "performance" consists of pouting, grimacing and saying things like, "I'm totally screwed." If you want to know what she's like without paying to see the movie, go to any mall on a Saturday and eavesdrop at any American Apparel store.

MB: Hawke is my favourite actor of the '90s generation. But doesn't Ryan Gosling have some kind of a deal to play every race-car driver with an existential dilemma? And there are almost no other actors in the film — just some shots of chins on cellphones. So Gomez is onscreen almost all the time, crowding the action with her annoying baby fat. By the way, whoever heard of a Bulgarian merchant bank?

RC: Bulgarians, that's who. If the movie had lived up to the promise of the scene, it might have been a fun ride, but it runs out of gas after the first five minutes.

MB: And yet, I found it had some kind of cheap kinetic energy that I couldn't completely write off. Or maybe I could, if I used a Bulgarian accountant.

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Bring in the fall film fare

Fall preview. It's back to school time, the weather is getting cooler and the leaves are turning — what better time to hide out in a movie theatre?

MATT PRIGGE
Metro World News in New York

Vin Diesel is back in another Riddick movie this fall. CONTRIBUTED

Riddick (Sept. 6)

What: Vin Diesel wasn't yet a star like he is now when 2000's lean Pitch Black came out, and was stuck in a valley during the bloated 2004 spin-off The Chronicles of Riddick. Now that he's back — or at least back in a franchise he once tried to abandon — all's good, presumably.

Why: Series director David Twohy has long been making genre films, and as of The Perfect Getaway has finally gotten good at them. That this runs less than two hours is a good sign.

Why not: Sorry, but Pitch Black is just so-so. And headline writers have at least three ways to make puns out of the name (Worthy of 'Riddick'-ule — you can have that one). This also features a character named Lord Siberius Vaako.

Will get an Oscar for: Best animation of the clearly tired and aging Vin Diesel

The Family (Sept. 13)

What: Eurotrash auteur Luc Besson (The Fifth Element, Taken) sucks up Robert De Niro, Michelle Pfeiffer and Tommy Lee Jones (plus executive producer Martin Scorsese) into his orbit. The first two play parents in a family hiding from a mob boss they snitched on.

Why: Besson is probably the last person with big money making genuinely insane blockbusters.

Why not: Besson's movies are stupid. Sometimes this isn't a good thing.

Will get an Oscar for: Best Robert De Niro performance of fall 2013. (He's also in Last Vegas, American Hustle and Grudge Match.)

Insidious 2 (Sept. 13)

What: The second horror film from Saw's James Wan starring Patrick Wilson in two months — after The Conjuring — is a sequel to another Wan-Wilson hit from 2009, one concerning an evil spirit that is (get this) insidious.

Why: Wan — soon of Fast & Furious 7, or however it will be titled — is getting better and better at old school frights.

Why not: There are no such things as ghosts and movies like this keep people, even smart people, thinking there are.

Will get an Oscar for: Best James Wan film of the quarter.

Prisoners (Sept. 20)

What: Hugh Jackman plays a small town carpenter who kidnaps the creepy man (Paul Dano) he thinks kidnapped his six-year-old daughter and her best friend.

Why: Jackman is a talented actor who excels at playing tortured brooders. There's also Viola Davis, Maria Bello, Terrence Howard and Melissa Leo to help him.

Why not: With his Oscar-nominated Incendies, Canadian director Denis Villeneuve sucked much of the idiosyncrasy out of Wajdi Mouawad's play Scorched. This seems to be a heavy, humourless, obvious portrait of obsession and false justice.

Will get an Oscar for: Least joyful film of 2013.

Do you believe in ghosts? Then you better see Insidious 2. CONTRIBUTED

What to watch in October:

- **Gravity (Oct 4).** Alfonso Cuaron finally follows up 2006's Children of Men with this 3D extravaganza about the plight of two astronauts (George Clooney and Sandra Bullock) dancing around outside Earth's orbit — and literally no one else.
- **Runner Runner (Oct 4).** Justin Timberlake plays a student who loses all his money on online poker and decides to double down on stupidity by confronting the guy who runs it (Ben Affleck).
- **Captain Phillips (Oct 11).** Earlier this year, adventurous audiences got the Danish A Hijacking, concerning a ship overtaken by Somali pirates. Here's the big budgeted American edition (albeit not a remake), starring Tom Hanks as real-life abductee Richard Phillips.
- **Machete Kills (Oct 11).** The first Machete — with Danny Trejo as an ex-Federali vigilante slicing up racists — wasn't such a hit. But after Kick-Ass, why let limp box offices halt a sequel, particularly one with Lady Gaga and off-screen racist Mel Gibson?
- **12 Years a Slave (Oct 18).** Avant-garde artist Steve McQueen (as opposed to the late superstar) goes big with this adaptation of the memoir of Solomon Northup (played by Chiwetel Ejiofor), a freed slave sold back into slavery.
- **Carrie (Oct 18).** The Stephen King classic, already immortalized by Brian De Palma in 1976, gets yet another update, this time with Chloe Grace Moretz and Julianne Moore as her crazy religious mom.

Gravity promises to be 3D-licious. CONTRIBUTED

Documentary

One Direction: This Is Us

Director. Morgan Spurlock

Stars. One Direction

One Direction fans will flock to this film no matter what, but for the dozen others considering watching it: don't! Yes, the cheeky Brits offer a few laughs backstage and the (very) brief interviews with their families are heartwarming, but the bulk of this doc is One Direction on stage and, frankly, they put on a boring show. The lads tell us they're not your typical boy band (they don't dance, you see), but without the choreographed routines you're left just listening to the music — and, if you're not already a fan, their concert won't persuade you. **REGAN REID**

Action/Biography

The Grandmaster

Director. Wong Kar-Wai

Stars. Tony Leung, Zhang Ziyi

The life of the legendary Chinese martial-arts master Ip Man gets an appropriately mythical treatment in The Grandmaster, the comeback film from Hong Kong auteur Wong Kar-Wai. Working in the same fluid, lyrical style as his early masterpieces, Wong bends the conventions of the martial-arts genre to create an unusual sort of historical epic — one in which a country's long-standing social and cultural divisions become physicalized via depictions of hand-to-hand combat. The film seems to have been chopped up in the editing room, but it still has grandeur. **ADAM NAYMAN**

Long weekend tunes

SOUND CHECK
Alan Cross
scene@metronews.ca

Labour Day. The saddest long weekend of the year. Maybe there's something here that will cheer you up.

Skyfall/ Russian Army Choir

Six members of the army covering Adele for a Moscow morning show? James Bond gets respect, even in Russia.

One/ Yamantaka // Sonic Titan

These "Noh-wave" experimentalists (and former Polaris Music Prize Short Listers) from Montreal have a new album entitled UZU coming Oct. 29. I, for one, can't wait.

No Rain/Blind Melon

Isolated vocals — just the recording of the singing of well-known songs — are appearing online in increasing numbers. Here's what Shannon Hoon sounded like with all the music stripped away. No Auto-Tune here, kids.

THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., AUG. 30 TO THURS., SEPT. 5 TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Southland Mall
3025 Gordon Rd.

2 Guns (14A) Fri-Mon 1-7:30 Tue-Thu 8
Blue Jasmine (PG) Fri-Mon 1:40-4:25-7:15-9:55 Tue-Thu 5:40-8:15 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
The Conjuring (14A) Fri-Mon 2-4:40-7:35-10:10 Tue-Thu 6-8:45
Despicable Me 2 (G) Fri-Mon 1:30 Tue-Thu 5:30
Despicable Me 2 3D (G) Fri-Mon 4:10-6:55-9:20 Tue-Thu 8:05
Elysium (14A) Fri-Mon 1:20-3:55-6:45-9:40 Tue-Thu 5:55-8:30
Grown Ups 2 (PG) Fri-Mon 7:05-9:45 Tue-Thu 8:50
Jobs (PG) Fri-Mon 4-10:05 Tue-Thu 5:05
Kick-Ass 2 (14A) Fri-Mon 1:15-4:15-7:20-9:50 Tue-Thu 5:25-8:35
Monsters University (G) Fri-Mon 12:45
The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones (PG) Fri-Mon 12:50-3:50-7-10 Tue-Thu 5-7:50 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
The Smurfs 2 (G) Fri-Mon 1:50-4:30 Tue-Thu 5:15
We're the Millers (14A) Fri-Mon 1:05-3:40-6:30-9:30 Tue-Thu 5:45-8:20
The Wolverine (14A) Fri-Mon 3:35-6:35-9:35 Tue-Thu 4:50-7:45

Galaxy Cinemas Normanview S.C.
420 McCarthy Blvd. N. Unit

Elysium (14A) Fri-Mon 4:45-7:20-9:55 Tue-Thu 7-9:35
Getaway (PG) Fri 2:45-5-7:35-10:05 Sat 12:20-2:45-5-7:35-10:05 Sun-Mon 2:45-5-7:35-10:05 Tue-Thu 7:25-9:40
Lee Daniels' The Butler (PG) Fri-Mon 1-3:50-6:50-9:50 Tue-Thu 6:50-9:45
The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones (PG) Fri-Mon 1:30-4:25-7:25-10:25 Tue-Thu 7:20-10:15
One Direction: This Is Us (G) No Passes

You're Next. CONTRIBUTED

Fri 12:50 No Passes Sat 12:25 No Passes Sun-Mon 12:50
One Direction: This Is Us 3D (G) No Passes Fri 3:05-5:25-7:40-10:15 No Passes Sat 2:40-5:15-7:40-10:20 No Passes Sun-Mon 3:05-5:25-7:40-10:15 No Passes Tue-Thu 7:45-10
Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters (PG) Fri 1:45 Sat 11:10-1:45 Sun-Mon 1:45
Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters 3D (PG) Fri-Mon 4:20-6:55-9:30 Tue-Wed 6:55-9:25 Thu 6:55
Planes (G) Fri 2:30 Sat 12-2:30 Sun-Mon 2:30
Planes 3D (G) Fri-Mon 4:50-7:10-9:25 Tue-Thu 7:05-9:20
Riddick (18A) No Passes Thu 9:30
Rudy (STC) Sat 11
The Smurfs 2 (G) Fri-Mon 2:10
We're the Millers (14A) Fri 1:40-4:15-7:05-9:40 Sat 11:05-1:40-4:15-7:05-9:40 Sun-Mon 1:40-4:15-7:05-9:40 Tue-Thu 7:15-9:50
The World's End (14A) Fri 2:20-5:10-7:55-10:30 Sat 11:45-2:20-5:10-7:55-10:30 Sun-Mon 2:20-5:10-7:55-10:30 Tue-Thu 7:30-10:05
You're Next (18A) Fri 2:55-5:20-7:50-10:10 Sat 12:10-2:55-5:20-7:50-10:10 Sun-Mon 2:55-5:20-7:50-10:10 Tue-Thu 7:50-10:10

Kramer IMAX Theatre
2903 Powerhouse Dr.

Flying Monsters 3D (STC) Fri 7 Sat 5:15 Sun 1-7 Mon 2:15 Thu 1-3:30-8:15
Man of Steel: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) Fri 1-4-8:15 Sat 1-6:30 Sun 3:30-8:15 Mon 3:30
Rocky Mountain Express (STC) Fri 11 Sat 4 Sun 2:15 Mon 1 Thu 2:15-4:45-7

Golden Mile
3806 Albert St.

Epic (G) Fri-Thu 1:25-4:05
The Heat (14A) Fri-Thu 1-3:40-6:30-9:10
Now You See Me (PG) Fri-Thu 1:10-3:45-6:35-9:15
Pacific Rim (PG) Fri-Thu 1-3:45-6:30-9:15
R.I.P.D. (PG) Fri-Thu 6:45-9:05
Red 2 (PG) Fri-Thu 1:25-3:50-6:50-9:20
Turbo (G) Fri-Thu 1:15-4:05-6:40
The Way Way Back (PG) Fri-Thu 1:20-3:45-6:35-9:20
White House Down (14A) Fri-Thu 9:10
World War Z (14A) Fri-Thu 1:05-3:40-6:40-9:20

Regina Public Library Film Theatre, 23 11 12th Ave.

Blackfish (PG) Fri-Sun 7
Kate & Leopold (PG) Wed 7
The Kings of Summer (PG) Thu 9
Much Ado About Nothing (PG) Thu 7
No Films Showing Today (STC) Mon-Tue
Our Nixon (STC) Fri 9 Sat 7 Sun 9

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Thirty Seconds to Mars
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Michael Douglas and Catherine Zeta Jones

Jailbird Cameron thought to be reason why Douglas and Zeta Jones split

The recent split between Michael Douglas and Catherine Zeta-Jones was reportedly spurred along by tension caused by his incarcerated son, Cameron Douglas, according to Radar Online. "Cameron is in solitary confinement and hasn't seen his father in an eternity, as he can't have visitors. Michael is beside himself. It consumes him," a source says. "Cameron and Catherine never seemed to have a close relationship, and I think Michael always felt she just didn't care for the situation. He probably felt there was little sympathy from her toward him and Cameron." Cameron is expected to remain in prison on drug charges until 2018.

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Let's cut Cyrus some slack and remember what we did in our crazy 20s

PAT HEALY
Metro World News in Boston

I'm just going to go ahead and say it: Miley Cyrus really doesn't care and I sort of love her for it. What? Don't look at me like that. The hipster dream sequence/American Apparel-ad on-acid spectacle that was the video for We Can't Stop was weird as hell, but it was also sort of amazing. And you all know it.

And here's the thing, people. Do you know how old Miley Cyrus is? She is 20 years old. Do you remember what you were doing at 20? Not caring about anything pretty much. Getting all kinds of messed up on all kinds of substances and making all kinds of mistakes. (Ahem, at least that's what I imagine YOU all were doing. I was studying for finals, in my pajamas, at all times.)

The difference between 20-year-old Miley Cyrus and 20-year-old you and me, however, is that we didn't have cameras documenting our every move. (Unless you did, in which case — hey, cool, thanks for taking time out of your fancy celebrity life and reading this column!)

So, in my estimation, Miley Cyrus is pretty much hitting all the normal, 20-year-old idiot signposts — and awesomely so.

Case and point: in response to the hysterics since her VMA performance (I'm having a little chuckle at my desk right now imagining middle-aged women furiously googling the word "twerk" and getting really, really confused) Miley did not issue some half-assed apology for slutting it up and having a good time via Twitter.

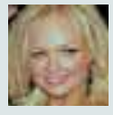
No, Miley instead began tweeting a bunch of slutty pics of herself — all of them featuring her bony butt from its least bony angle — by way of issuing the world a big middle finger. Get on with your bad self, Miley.

Zach Braff ALL IMAGES GETTY

Busy Braff keen to please all 46,000 investors of his imminent Kickstarter flick

After his hugely successful Kickstarter campaign to fund his next movie drew just as much criticism as support, Zach Braff knows he has something to prove as Wish I Was Here goes into production. "If this is the test case for this way of financing a movie, I want to set the bar really, really high," Braff tells E! News. Of course, having 46,000 investors for your film can be a bit daunting, but Braff says no one is getting short shrift. "If any of these 46,000 people email us or contact us, they get a response that day, hopefully within a couple of hours," he says. "We treat them like they're guests at the fanciest hotel and we're the concierge."

Twitter



@EmmaBunton
Have I missed anything??

@SarahKSilverman
Here's a fun fact. We are all 100% definitely going to die.

@ActuallyNPH
I've decided that I'd like to be J.J. Abrams' best friend. I feel like that should happen.

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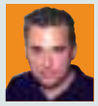
Liquid Assets

Season's end sipper



LIQUID ASSETS
Peter Rockwell
@therealwineguy
liquidassets@eastlink.ca

Coming from the Maritimes, I know that September can offer the best beach weather of the year. Even so, for the vast majority of Canadians the Labour Day is summer's last call.

Since the acknowledgment of hard work is the reason why we have this Monday off, I can't think of a better way to say a premature adios to summer than with a toast using something that took a little effort to create.

European bartenders have been mixing and matching their local liquids for decades, creating easy-to-make cocktails that more often than not have a wine base. All you need to get started is a bottle of white or sparkling.

In France's Burgundy region, Kir (using white) and Kir Royale (using sparkling) is made by adding a teaspoon of Crème de Cassis ($20.79 to $22.20) – a thick fruited blackberry liqueur — to the wine.

My favourite vino cocktail is The Spritz, invented in Northern Italy. Made with bubbly Prosecco, a dash of bitter Aperol ($21.99 to $26.98) aperitif and topped off with fizzy water, it's refreshing, no matter the season. **PRICES REFLECT RANGE ACROSS COUNTRY. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.**

Marinades are the easiest way to add flavours to your meals. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

One final summer long weekend hurrah

Marinades. Surprise your backyard get-together guests with some new flavours

Citrus marinades

Citrus juices are fairly acidic, which means they permeate and tenderize food quickly.

They work great as a base for marinades that you want to throw together just before dinner. For seafood, marinate for up to 30 minutes; chicken and steak can handle up to 2 hours.

Chipotle-Lime: Juice and zest of 2 limes, 2 tablespoons adobo sauce and 1 minced chipotle chili from a can of chipotles in adobo sauce, 2 cloves minced garlic, a hefty pinch of salt.

Orange-Cumin: Juice and zest of 1 orange, 1 tablespoon ground cumin, 1 teaspoon chili powder, 1 teaspoon garlic powder, a hefty pinch of salt. Try with haddock or chicken breasts.

Lemon-Herb: Juice and zest of 1 lemon, 1 tablespoon Italian herb blend, 1 teaspoon ground black pepper, hefty pinch of salt. Good on salmon or chicken thighs.

Vinaigrette marinades

Because vinegar is so aggressive, you'll want to temper it with oil. This helps carry the flavour into the food, as well as prevent the flavours from becoming too jarring. For fish, seafood and vegetables, marinate for 30 minutes and to up to 2 hours. For chicken, steak and pork, you can go for up to 8 hours.

Garlic-Balsamic: 2 tablespoons olive oil, 2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar, 4 cloves minced garlic, hefty pinch salt. Try with pork loin or steak tips.

Spicy Hoison: 2 tablespoons rice vinegar, 2 tablespoons hoisin sauce, 1 tablespoon vegetable oil, 1 teaspoon red pepper flakes, 1 teaspoon five-spice powder. Try on chicken tenders or scallops.

Maple-Soy: 2 tablespoons soy sauce, 3 tablespoons apple cider vinegar, 2 tablespoons maple syrup. Try with pork tenderloin medallions or cod.

Wine marinades

Wine is a great base for subtle marinades. Because they have a softer flavour than citrus or vinegar, you can use them to highlight other flavours. These marinades work especially well for hearty vegetables and meats. Marinate from 30 minutes to overnight.

Red Wine-Rosemary: 1/4 cup red wine, 1 tablespoon olive oil, hefty pinch each of salt and black pepper, 1 large stem rosemary, chopped. Try with portobello mushrooms.

White Wine-Mustard: 1/4 cup dry white wine, 3 tablespoons Dijon mustard, 1 tablespoon vegetable oil, hefty pinch each salt and black pepper. Great with chicken or eggplant.

Raspberry-Ginger: 1/4 cup sweet red wine, 1/4 cup seedless raspberry jam, 1 tablespoon vegetable oil, 2 tablespoons grated ginger, hefty pinch each salt and black pepper. Try on pork chops. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Ingredients

- 6 large ears of corn (3 with husks and silks removed, all 6 soaked in water, 10 mins)
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 4 tbsp sweet butter, melted
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh cilantro, plus sprigs to serve
- Zest and juice of 1 lime
- 2 cloves garlic, finely grated
- 1/2 tsp chipotle chili powder
- Maldon or other flaked sea salt
- 1/2 cup queso anejo
- 1/2 cup grated Asiago cheese, plus extra to garnish
- 6 slices apple wood smoked bacon, cooked and crumbled
- Ground black pepper

Mexican street corn in a salad

1. Heat grill for medium-high direct heat cooking.

2. Remove corn from water and pat dry. Brush 3 ears of husked corn on all sides with the olive oil. Leave other ears of corn in their husks.

3. Place all corn on cooking grate. Grill, turning occasionally, until husked corn is well-browned and charred in places, about 10 minutes. Other ears of corn will steam in husks, but the husks themselves will be dried out and charred in places.

4. Remove corn from grill and set aside until cool and easily handled, 5 mins. Once cool enough to handle, remove husks and silk from 3 ears that were grilled with them on.

5. One at a time, stand each ear on wide end and use serrated knife to saw down length of cob to remove the kernels. Discard the cobs, then transfer the kernels to a large bowl. Mix in the melted butter, then set aside.

6. In a bowl, stir together the mayonnaise, cilantro, lime zest and juice, garlic, chili powder and pinch of salt. Stir in both cheeses and most of the bacon, reserving a little for garnish. Add the dressing to the buttered corn kernels and mix well. Taste and season with salt and pepper. Garnish with grated cheese, cilantro and the reserved bacon. Serve chilled or at room temperature.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ ELIZABETH KARMEL, THE AUTHOR OF THREE COOKBOOKS, INCLUDING SOAKED, SLATHERED AND SEASONED

This recipe serves four. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bombers shore up D for battle vs. Riders

CFL. Winnipeg enlists DE in hope of avoiding another Labour Day massacre against scorching Saskatchewan

Blue Bombers QB Justin Goltz could get the start Sunday versus the Roughriders. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Another day, another new player for the Winnipeg Blue Bombers as they prepare to face the Saskatchewan Roughriders Sunday in Regina.

The Bombers (1-7) announced they had signed import defensive end Greg Peach Thursday and then confirmed he will play in Sunday's game against Saskatchewan (7-1).

Defensive co-ordinator Casey Creehan says he likes the way Peach goes all out in a game.

"After the performance we put out there in the first quarter of last week — we had guys turning down hits, we had guys not running to the ball — we played uninspired football and we aren't going to tolerate it," he said.

"Bringing a guy like Greg Peach in, I know that he will play balls to the wall, 100 miles an hour every snap."

Peach agrees with Creehan's assessment that the effort he puts in is one of his biggest strengths.

"I might not be the most freakish athlete, I just give everything I've got, every play and I work my pass rush," he said.

He was released by the Hamilton Tiger-Cats, where he appeared in 15 games last season, registering 36 tackles and six sacks.

Meanwhile, head coach Tim Burke says the Bombers won't announce who their starting quarterback will be until Friday morning.

Max Hall has been nursing an injured hand but it didn't seem to hamper his throwing much in practice Thursday. Buck Pierce is also out with an unspecified injury.

Justin Goltz is healthy and was also taking lots of snaps Thursday. He says he feels comfortable with the new offence Marcel Bellefeuille has brought to the team since replacing Gary Crowton this month at offensive co-ordinator.

It's just one of the many changes the Bombers have implemented to turn around a dismal season that led to the firing of general manager Joe Mack and team president Garth Buchko.

This week alone the Bombers cut place-kicker Justin Palardy and receiver Isaac Anderson. They also signed new receivers Mike Sims-Walker, a five-season NFL veteran, and Aaron Kelly, who spent two years with the Hamilton Tiger-Cats before being released this spring.

On paper it doesn't look like the Bombers have a chance against the Roughriders.

Saskatchewan has scored a league high 264 points so far this season and allowed just 177, while Winnipeg has allowed a league-high 247 and scored just 167.

The Bombers haven't managed to beat Saskatchewan in their annual Labour Day weekend game since 2004 and last year were humiliated 52-0.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Labour Day Classic pick

Blue Bombers at Roughriders, Sunday, 2 p.m. (TSN)

Saskatchewan (7-1) has the league's best record while Winnipeg (1-7) is tied with Edmonton for the worst. And while the Riders have won two games since suffering their first loss of the season, both have been by just three points.

A constant this season has been Kory Sheets, the CFL rushing leader with 1,058 yards already. Quarterback Darian Durant has a league-high 17 TD passes with no interceptions.

The Bombers' biggest issues continue to be on offence. They managed just 11 first downs and 235 net yards against Hamilton and had just five plays for no first downs in the opening quarter.

Pick: Riders

CFL

Williams ruled a free agent by Ontario court

The CFL Players' Association says disgruntled receiver Chris Williams is now a free agent following an Ontario Superior Court of Justice ruling.

On Thursday, the court issued a ruling that quashed an arbitrator's decision in June that Williams' contract with the Hamilton Tiger-Cats was binding even though the club violated the CFL's collective bargaining agreement with the CFLPA.

Williams went to arbitration asking to be released from the final year of his contract with Hamilton to reportedly pursue NFL offers. THE CANADIAN PRESS

CFL

Argos lose their Ray of sunshine

The Toronto Argonauts are Zach Collaros's team for the foreseeable future.

Collaros takes over as the starting quarterback after Argos coach Scott Milanovich dropped a bombshell Thursday, announcing incumbent Ricky Ray is out approximately six weeks with a shoulder injury.

Ray, 33, was injured in the first quarter of Toronto's 35-14 home loss to Calgary on Friday. After throwing the ball away, a scrambling Ray extended his right arm to brace his fall upon being hit by Stampeders defensive lineman Charleston Hughes.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ricky Ray is injured in a tackle by Calgary DE Charleston Hughes. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Bouchard bounced out in second round

U.S. Open. Montrealer has her serve broken seven times in loss to women's eighth seed

Montreal's Eugenie Bouchard fought off four match points before losing 6-4, 2-6, 6-3 to eighth-seeded Angelique Kerber on Thursday in the second round of the U.S. Open.

Bouchard was unable to match her third-round Wimbledon showing last month.

The teen, ranked 59th in the world, finished with 41 winners and 43 errors against Kerber.

Bouchard broke six times on 14 chances but lost her own serve on seven occasions and committed seven double-faults.

Bouchard saved four match points through winners as she served trailing a set and 3-5 in the third. But a serving error handed Kerber a fifth winning chance, with the German taking the victory on Bouchard's wide forehand.

Eugenie Bouchard returns a shot to Angelique Kerber at the U.S. Open in New York on Thursday. DAVID GOLDMAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"It's always disappointing to lose, I'm a bit down about that," Bouchard said. "I felt I played well, I tried to be aggressive. But she's a good counter-puncher, every time I came to the net she passed me.

"My first serve was nowhere as good as it can be, but I made up for some of it with my second serve. But I need to work on my fitness as well as my mental strength. This match showed that I'm close, I was dictating and competing. But I need to get a bit more consistent."

Aleksandra Wozniak of Blainville, Que., playing only her second match since March after last autumn's shoulder injury, faced a huge task against double Grand Slam champion Victoria Azarenka and lost 6-3, 6-1.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Men's action

Milos Raonic of Thornhill, Ont., advanced to the third round at Flushing Meadows with a 6-1, 6-2, 6-4 victory over Spain's Pablo Andujar on Thursday.

NHL

Chiarelli signs on to stay in Boston

The Bruins have signed general manager Peter Chiarelli, who built the team that reached the Stanley Cup final twice in three years, to a four-year contract extension that would keep him in Boston through the 2017-18 season.

Chiarelli, 49, will enter his eighth season with Boston when training camp opens next month. The Bruins have qualified for the playoffs in six of his first seven years, compiling a 50-35 post-season record and winning the Stanley Cup in 2011.

The Bruins will hold a press conference with Chiarelli on Friday.

Boston has compiled a 291-187-62 record with Chiarelli in the front office, and has had five seasons of 90 points or more.

Chiarelli will also continue on as alternate governor on the NHL's Board of Governors, the team said Thursday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Soccer

Ribery named UEFA's top player

Bayern Munich and France midfielder Franck Ribery won the UEFA Best Player in Europe award for the 2012-13 season on Thursday, beating Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo by a big margin.

Ribery earned 36 votes in the poll of journalists from across Europe — 23 more than four-time reigning world player of the year Messi. Real Madrid forward Ronaldo won three votes.

"It's a very special moment to be standing here this evening," Ribery said after receiving the award following the draw for the group stage of the Champions League in Monaco.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Franck Ribery receives the UEFA Best Player in Europe award on Thursday in Monaco. GETTY IMAGES

Head games

Payout good PR for NFL

CATHAL KELLY
Special to Metro

The NFL pays commissioner Roger Goodell something in the region of $30 million US annually. On Thursday, he earned it all back and more.

Goodell took an existential crisis facing the NFL — a massive lawsuit resulting from decades of ignoring the problem of concussions — and sealed it off.

More than 4,500 former players settled their class-action suit against the league in return for $765 million US. That represents roughly $170,000 per litigant. It's about eight per cent of the league's annual revenue base. It's a lot of money. To the NFL, it's nothing.

Now, there will be no trial. We won't hear weeks of ruinous horror stories told in open court. As part of the deal, the NFL admitted no liability. The settlement also ties off the possibility that any of the league's 18,000 retired players can sue in the future.

GO TO METRONEWS.CA/VOICES FOR MORE ON THE NFL'S CONCUSSION ISSUES FROM CATHAL KELLY.

NFL. Former players surprised by tentative concussion settlement

Tony Dorsett hopes a proposed $765 million settlement with the NFL can make a difference in the lives of the thousands of former players who are suffering from concussion-related brain injuries.

Players like Dorsett, a Hall of Fame running back.

"There's definitely a dire need for help for these guys — for us guys," Dorsett told The Associated Press on Thursday.

The settlement would provide immediate compensation for players and their families, pay for medical exams and treatment and underwrite research that the plaintiffs hope will protect future generations from the devastating effects of repeated blows to the head. The settlement still has to be approved by Senior U.S. District Judge Anita Brody in Philadelphia, something lead plaintiffs' lawyer Christopher Seeger said he expects to happen in the next 60 to 90 days.

"I don't know all the details so I really can't speak to the specifics, but I'm glad to see there's been some movement and some reaction to all this," said Dorsett, the most accomplished and best-known plaintiff in the flurry of lawsuits after starring for the Dallas Cowboys and winning the 1976 Heisman Trophy at Pittsburgh.

Dorsett and Super Bowl-winning quarterback Jim McMahon were among the more than 4,500 former athletes — some suffering from dementia, depression or Alzheimer's — who have sued the NFL since the first case was filed in Philadelphia in 2011. They accused the league of concealing the long-term dangers of concussions and rushing injured players back onto the field, while glorifying and profiting from the kind of bone-jarring hits that make for spectacular footage. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New NFL approach?

"I'm shocked that it is settled. I'm used to the NFL taking a hard-line approach as they have throughout the years with strikes and everything else."

Former NFL offensive tackle Lomas Brown

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	79	55	.590	—
Tampa Bay	75	57	.568	3
Baltimore	70	61	.534	7½
New York	70	63	.526	8½
Toronto	**60**	**74**	**.448**	**19**

CENTRAL DIVISION

Detroit	78	56	.582	—
Cleveland	71	61	.538	6
Kansas City	69	64	.519	8½
Minnesota	57	75	.432	20
Chicago	56	76	.424	21

WEST DIVISION

Texas	78	55	.586	—
Oakland	75	58	.564	3
Los Angeles	60	72	.455	17½
Seattle	59	73	.447	18½
Houston	44	88	.333	33½

Thursday's results
L.A. Angels 2 Tampa Bay 0
Kansas City 3 Minnesota 1
Detroit 7 Oakland 6
Baltimore at Boston
Seattle at Houston
Wednesday's results
Toronto 7 N.Y. Yankees 2
Oakland 14 Detroit 4
Texas 12 Seattle 4
Tampa Bay 4 L.A. Angels 1
Chicago White Sox 6 Houston 1
Kansas City 8 Minnesota 1
Boston 4 Baltimore 3
Friday's games
All times Eastern
Baltimore (Gonzalez 8-6) at N.Y. Yankees (Sabathia 11-11), 7:05 p.m.
Kansas City (Santana 8-7) at **Toronto (Buehrle 10-7)**, 7:07 p.m.
Cleveland (McAllister 7-7) at Detroit (Porcello 10-7), 7:08 p.m.
Chicago White Sox (Santiago 4-7) at Boston (Dempster 6-9), 7:10 p.m.
Minnesota (Hendriks 0-2) at Texas (Darvish 12-5), 8:05 p.m.
Seattle (Walker 0-0) at Houston (Peacock 3-4), 8:10 p.m.
Tampa Bay (Price 8-5) at Oakland (Parker 10-6), 10:05 p.m.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	80	52	.606	—
Washington	67	65	.508	13
Philadelphia	61	73	.455	20
New York	60	72	.455	20
Miami	49	82	.374	30½

CENTRAL DIVISION

St. Louis	78	55	.586	—
Pittsburgh	77	55	.583	½
Cincinnati	75	59	.560	3½
Milwaukee	58	74	.439	19½
Chicago	56	77	.421	22

WEST DIVISION

Los Angeles	78	55	.586	—
Arizona	68	64	.515	9½
Colorado	63	72	.467	16
San Diego	60	73	.451	18
San Francisco	59	74	.444	19

Thursday's results
N.Y. Mets 11 Philadelphia 3
Milwaukee at Pittsburgh
Miami at Washington
Cleveland at Atlanta
Wednesday's results
Colorado 5 San Francisco 4
Atlanta 3 Cleveland 2
Philadelphia 6 N.Y. Mets 2
San Diego 5 Arizona 1
Cincinnati 10 St. Louis 0
Pittsburgh 7 Milwaukee 1
Washington 4 Miami 3
L.A. Dodgers 4 Chicago Cubs 0
Friday's games — All times Eastern
Philadelphia (Halladay 3-4) at Chicago Cubs (Samardzija 8-11), 2:20 p.m.
St. Louis (Miller 12-8) at Pittsburgh (Liriano 14-6), 7:05 p.m.
N.Y. Mets (Gee 9-9) at Washington (Zimmermann 15-7), 7:05 p.m.
Miami (Fernandez 10-5) at Atlanta (Teheran 10-7), 7:30 p.m.
L.A. Angels (Weaver 8-7) at Milwaukee (Peralta 8-13), 8:10 p.m.
Cincinnati (Arroyo 13-9) at Colorado (Manship 0-4), 8:40 p.m.
San Francisco (Lincecum 7-13) at Arizona (Delgado 4-4), 9:40 p.m.
San Diego (Stults 8-11) at L.A. Dodgers (Ryu 12-5), 10:10 p.m.

CFL

EAST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	T	PF	PA	Pt
Toronto	8	5	3	0	244	209	10
Hamilton	8	4	4	0	203	219	8
Montreal	8	3	5	0	195	239	6
Winnipeg	8	1	7	0	167	247	2

WEST DIVISION

Saskatchewan	8	7	1	0	264	177	14
Calgary	8	6	2	0	261	200	12
B.C.	8	5	3	0	207	203	10
Edmonton	8	1	7	0	188	235	2

WEEK 10
Friday's game — All times Eastern
Hamilton at B.C., 10 p.m.
Sunday's game
Winnipeg at Saskatchewan, 4 p.m.
Monday's game
Edmonton at Calgary, 5 p.m.
Tuesday, Sept. 3
Montreal at Toronto, 7:30 p.m.

MLS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
Montreal	12	7	5	41	35	41
New York	11	9	6	38	34	39
Kansas City	11	9	6	36	26	39
Philadelphia	10	8	8	37	37	38
New England	10	9	6	34	24	36
Houston	10	8	6	29	28	36
Chicago	10	10	4	30	34	34
Columbus	8	12	5	29	34	29
Toronto	4	12	9	22	34	21
D.C.	3	17	5	15	41	14

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
Salt Lake	13	8	6	48	33	45
Los Angeles	12	9	4	40	32	40
Colorado	10	7	9	33	27	39
Portland	9	4	12	37	26	39
Seattle	11	8	4	31	26	37
Dallas	9	7	10	36	38	37
Vancouver	10	9	6	36	33	36
San Jose	9	10	7	28	37	34
Chivas	5	14	6	24	45	21

Friday's games — All times Eastern
New England at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Portland at Real Salt Lake, 10 p.m.
Saturday's games
Seattle at Columbus, 7:30 p.m.
Montreal at Philadelphia, 7:30 p.m.
D.C. at New York, 8 p.m.
Colorado at Kansas City, 8:30 p.m.
San Jose at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
You have met so many challenges lately that you are entitled to back off — but you won't. Mars, your ruler, is urging you to go on the attack. Keep the pressure on your rivals, and on yourself.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
There are a number of things you no longer need in your life and now is the time to get rid of them. You know what they are and how they are holding you back, so go on and purge.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
It will be easy to go over the top and say something you don't really mean — and the consequences could be costly. You don't need to be so forthright in your opinions.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Your mind is moving super fast at the moment, thanks to the positive influence of Mercury. But others won't be so quick in the brain box department, so make allowances and spell out the answers for them.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
You must resolve to stay the course, whatever the temptation may be to cut your losses and get out. Your solar chart indicates that it will all work out right in the end.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Even if the facts are on your side, you could be in a difficult position today because friends and colleagues have got it completely wrong and you don't want to embarrass them. Still, the truth is the truth.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Your popularity will soar over the next few days and people in positions of power will go out of their way to do you favours. Bear in mind though that they will expect those favours to be returned.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You are not the kind to let people dictate to you but cosmic activity in the career area of your chart suggests you may have to today. Try not to antagonize authority figures.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
A Sun-Saturn link will boost your self-discipline and make it easier for you to complete tasks that you might otherwise lose interest in. It's not true that Sags lack in staying power. Prove it.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
There may be no logical reason why a certain person gets on your nerves but they do and there isn't much you can do about it. What you can do, of course, is stay out of their way for the next 24 hours.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Don't allow yourself to be talked into supporting a cause you don't believe in. Just because it is the fashionable thing does not make it right.

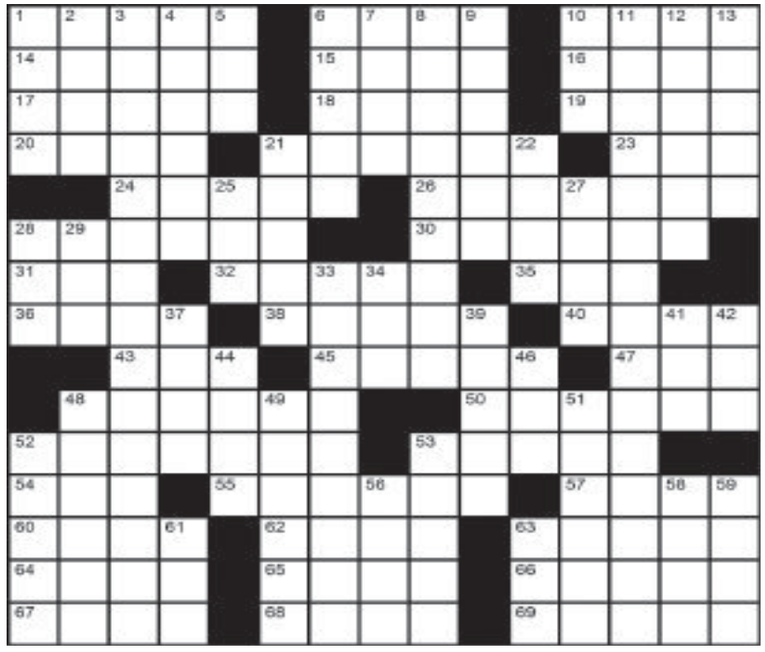
♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
There is no point trying to explain why you have chosen to follow a certain course — few people are likely to understand. The only thing that matters is that you believe you are doing the right thing. Do you?

SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

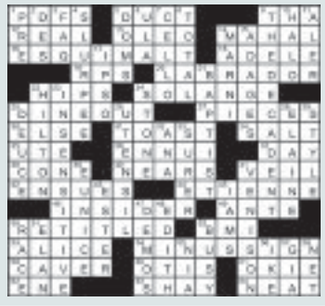
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Apple, in Quebec City
6. Boxing blows
10. Cook's crackees
14. Vestibule
15. Fit
16. Ms. Loughlin of "Full House"
17. "Over There": Composed by George M. __
18. 'Proper' word?
19. String problem
20. Ladies
21. Swanky neighbourhood of Winnipeg
23. __ and flow
24. "__, __! I remember now!"
26. Escape; or, Selena Gomez's new movie
28. Fellini film, "La __" (1954)
30. Restrain: 2 wds.
31. Furry friend
32. "...upon so __ _ subject as myself." - Bit of Romeo and Juliet
35. Big hurricane, __: 5
36. Longbow woods
38. Hen's home
40. Crevice-filling wedge
43. Q. "What's the opposite of 'out'?" A. "'__', _ think."
45. Ms. O'Donnell
47. Numerical prefix
48. Mini burger
50. Vancouver-born actor James who played Scotty on "Star Trek"
52. Certain cracker
53. Category
54. "Babe: __ in the City" (1998)
55. Mary-Kate and Ashley
57. Venerations
60. Moisturizer ingredient
62. "Make __ __." ("Star Trek: The Next Generation" catchphrase)
63. Sharpshoot
64. Not ruffled
65. Crease
66. President Nixon's first VP, Spiro __
67. Rubik's Cube inventor, __ Rubik
68. Genuine
69. Gives up control

Down
1. Mil. ranks
2. "Wooow!"
3. Celine Dion hit: 5 wds.
4. Fredericton-born soprano Ms. Brueggergosman
5. Sea eagle, variantly
6. Roman Myth: God of beginnings
7. "...like _ __ of chocolates..." - Forrest Gump
8. Country sound
9. E-Mail getter, say
10. Antlered animal
11. Film classic on Vancouver-born actress Ann Rutherford's resume: 4 wds.
12. Josh of song
13. Be indifferent: 2 wds.
21. "Coffee, __ __ milk?"
22. Ear-related
25. NFL measurements
27. Collections of anecdotes
28. Mata Hari, for one
29. Little laugh, __-hee
33. Montreal-born opera great, Maureen __
34. Also
37. Miffed state
39. Rolling-to-shore waters
41. Mr. Gershwin
42. Maximum opp.
44. Prefix to 'syncrasy' (Mannerism)
46. Time type
48. Popeye's profession
49. Join the army
51. Netflix prison-set series, "__ Is the New Black"
52. Astronomer's interest
53. Pointed-hat garden ornament
56. Classic tongue-twister bit, "__ Wood sawed wood."
58. Blade in sports
59. Uses needle-and-thread
61. Jeff Lynne's gr.
63. Pouch

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

2		4	1		6	3		7
		5	8		4	9		
	7						8	
			3		7			
1								2
			9		2			
	4						3	
		2	7		5	1		
5		8	4		1	7		9

Yesterday's Sudoku

2	1	6	4	9	8	6	3	7
4	6	9	7	5	3	1	2	8
3	8	7	2	1	6	4	9	5
6	3	1	9	2	7	8	5	4
7	9	4	3	8	5	2	1	6
5	2	8	6	4	1	3	7	9
1	7	3	5	6	4	9	8	2
8	4	2	1	7	9	5	6	3
9	5	6	8	3	2	7	4	1

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NEW ARRIVALS OF

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45789 Double-Size **259.99 ea.**
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off the already reduced prices on almost all

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Bennett-fit #11

Don Willimont
Director of Sales

Non-commission Sales Staff

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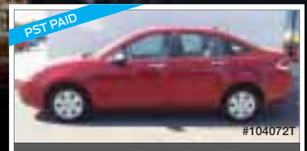
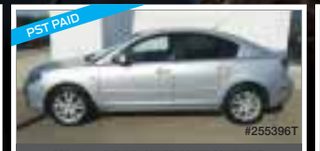


SEDAN, AUTO, AIR, CRUISE, SAT RADIO, **UNDER 39,000KMS**, 1 OWNER, **LOCAL TRADE**

2009 FORD FOCUS SE
$14,982* / $126*

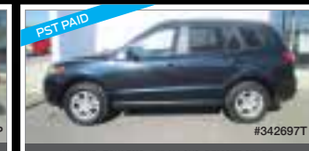


SEDAN, ALLOYS, AIR, CRUISE, POWER EQUIPMENT, **90,000KMS**, **WINTER TIRE PKG**, LOCAL TRADE

2009 MAZDA 3
$12,995* / $109*

MANUAL, HTD LEATHER, **FACTORY NAV**, 18" ALLOYS, STRIPE KIT, **REAR SPOILER**

2008 FORD MUSTANG GT COUPE
$20,998* / $182*

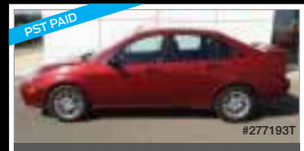


V6, **AWD**, **TOW PKG**, 17" ALLOYS, **REMOTE START**, USB/IPOD, **LOW KMS**, LOCAL TRADE

2010 HYUNDAI SANTA FE
$22,996* / $189*

2.5L I4, AUTO, POWER DR SEAT, SAT RADIO, POWER EQUIPMENT, ALLOYS, **20,000KMS**, **BUYBACK**

2013 FORD FUSION SE
$22,885* / $172*

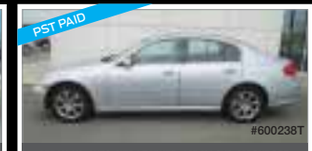


AUTO, AIR, TILT, CRUISE, ALLOYS, **SPOILER**, **KEYLESS ENTRY**, LOW KMS, LOCAL TRADE

2002 FORD FOCUS SE
$7,288*

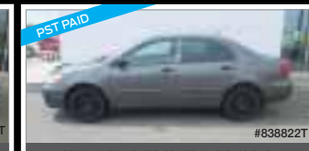
6.2L V8, HTD LEATHER, SAT RADIO, **BREMBO BRAKES**, STRIPE PKG, **SUNROOF**, 1 OWNER, LOCAL TRADE, **ONLY 5,000KMS**

2010 CHEVROLET CAMARO 2SS
$33,995* / $288*



SEDAN, V6, AUTO, **HTD LEATHER**, 18" ALLOYS, **MOONROOF**, **UPGRADED SOUND**, REVERSE SENSING, LOCAL TRADE

2006 INFINITI G35X AWD
$21,889* / $257*

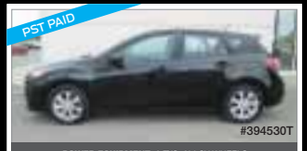


SEDAN, AUTO, AIR, TILT, CRUISE, ALLOYS, CD PLYR, BUG DEFLECTOR, TINT, **95,000KMS**, LOCAL TRADE

2007 TOYOTA COROLLA CE
$12,763* / $127*

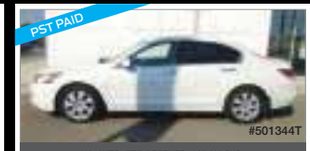
CREW CAB, 6.5FT BOX, **REV CAMERA**, 20" ALLOYS, **HTD LEATHER**, CONSOLE SHIFT, **MOONROOF**, ONLY 85,000KMS

2008 FORD F-150 LARIAT
$25,629* / $209*



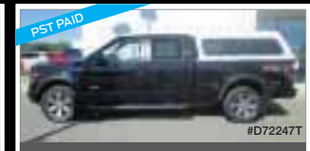
POWER EQUIPMENT, A/T/C, ALLOY WHEELS, **ONLY 12,000KMS**, 1 OWNER, LOCAL TRADE

2011 MAZDA 3 HATCHBACK
$18,998* / $157*



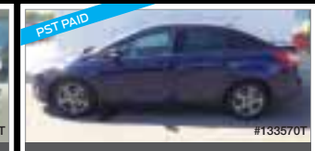
V6, AUTO, **HTD LEATHER**, 18" ALLOYS, SAT RADIO, **POWER SEATS**

2010 HONDA ACCORD EX-L
$22,995* / $189*



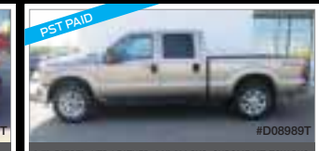
3.5L ECOBOOST, SYNC, BLUETOOTH, POWER SEAT, 20" ALLOYS, CONSOLE SHIFT, **UNDER 33,000KMS**, LOCAL TRADE

2012 FORD F-150 FX4
$37,995* / $269*



SPORT APP PKG, SPOILER, 16" ALLOYS, **MYFORD TOUCH**, SYNC, BLUETOOTH, **UNDER 20,000KMS**, LOCAL TRADE

2012 FORD FOCUS SE
$19,887* / $137*



6.7L DIESEL, HTD LEATHER, **20" ALLOYS**, CHROME KIT, TOW PKG, BUG DEFLECTOR, MUDFLAPS, 1 OWNER, **ONLY 10,000KMS**

2011 FORD F-250 XLT DIESEL
$48,576* / $342*

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